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LD271415 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Territories—The authorities have decided to postpone the deportation of five Palestinians who face expulsion orders, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported 27 January. The decision was made in light of U.S. "pressure" against expulsions, concern to stem the "continued deterioration" in Israel's image, and fear that further expulsions might trigger new disturbances.

As for the security situation, Jerusalem radio announced that IDF soldiers imposed a curfew on a refugee camp near Ramallah after a "large riot" during which two women were wounded. In the Gaza Strip, the IDF closed a Palestinian news agency that had conducted "hostile activities." The radio also disclosed that some 300 Gaza residents have been hospitalized due to beatings since the IDF began its policy of "physically confronting" demonstrators, noting that this number does not include those who were treated at UNRWA clinics. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said "there is no formal policy of beating as a form of punishment," and he stressed that beatings are authorized only against those who are engaged in violence or who are forcibly resisting arrest.

Political Developments—The recent message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak followed a proposal by Shamir for a private meeting with Mubarak without preconditions, IDF radio reported. Mubarak responded by affirming his readiness to meet Shamir if the latter expresses willingness to discuss an international conference, and he supported his position with the message which Israeli media publicized 24-25 January.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres intends to take "very strenuous" political action to further the peace process and he has told his associates that he is "totally fed up" with Shamir's rejection of any political move, Jerusalem television revealed. Peres hopes for support from senior officials in the U.S. State Department, the television indicated, even though Secretary of State George Shultz is "apprehensive" about a confrontation with Shamir.

Palestinian Radio—In further comment on the clandestine "Al-Quds" Palestinian radio, the director of Jerusalem radio's Arabic services told HADASHOT that Israel cannot jam the station without using a powerful transmitter and he emphasized that the decision to jam is a political decision outside his own authority. The director confirmed that the radio broadcasts from Syria and linked it with Ahmad Jibril, leader of the PFLP-GC.

Among its broadcasts, Al-Quds radio carried a statement by Jibril greeting the Palestinian "uprising" and warning against "sellouts" and "compromisers" who are trying to promote "capitulationist schemes." The radio also broadcast a PNSF statement which denounced the upcoming meeting between George Shultz and two Palestinian personalities visiting Washington. The PNSF condemned Shultz' talks with Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahman as a "suspect" attempt by "agent figures" to "abort the popular uprising."

Lebanon

Kidnapping, Hostages—Beirut radio announced that a German citizen was kidnapped by gunmen in West Beirut 27 January. However, the FRG Embassy told Voice of Lebanon radio that there are no Germans in West Beirut, and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the kidnap victim is a Lebanese citizen of German origin.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine warned earlier that there is "no solution in sight" for the four "spies" it is holding because "things have become complicated by an increase in the number of people arrested in Palestine and the failure to release 400 detainees." This message was contained in a statement to a foreign news agency accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Alan Steen, AFP noted.

Clash in South—The Islamic Resistance acknowledged that three of its men were killed by the IDF 25 January during an attempt to infiltrate the security strip, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Israeli security sources confirmed that an IDF unit had fired at infiltrators, IDF radio noted.

Relations With Egypt—President Amin al-Jumayyil intends to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt before the end of his presidential term this year, according to an AL-NAHAR report cited by MENA.

Iraq

Arab Relations—President Saddam Husayn and Jordanian King Husayn discussed the "uprising" in the occupied territories, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Amman summit resolutions during the monarch's brief visit to Baghdad, Amman television reported. PETRA-JNA added that the talks also dealt with efforts toward a Middle East peace conference and the king's forthcoming European tour.

Saddam Husayn indicated his approval of recent GCC contacts with Iran in an interview with the Amman newspaper AL-RA'Y. The president noted that while the Gulf states have concluded that the Iranians "are a danger to everyone," they also believe that an Iranian request for a meeting, which might lead to Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 "without manipulations," should not be ignored. Saddam Husayn stated that in Iraq's analysis, "we have nothing against this."

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, referring to recent Syrian mediation efforts in the Gulf war, declared that such mediation "is not wanted." The foreign minister revealed that at the Amman summit President Saddam Husayn "said clearly" to Syrian President al-Asad that Iraq "rejected" such mediation. 'Aziz stressed that Syria "must play its Arab role" and "not turn into a mediator."

Air Attacks—Iraqi jets "destroyed" a "very large" maritime target off the Iranian coast 27 January, a military spokesman told INA. The agency also reported another strike on a large maritime target earlier the same day, while a communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced an attack on a similar target 26 January.

In another development, Iraqi planes "destroyed" an Iranian surface-to-air missile battery on the southern battlefront 27 January, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

Kuwait

Former Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and former Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad exchanged portfolios in a cabinet reshuffle announced by KUNA. In addition, three new cabinet members took over the Ministries of Public Health, Electricity and Water, and Communications.

Mubarak's Tour

President Mubarak stated that Britain supports the holding of an international Middle East peace conference, MENA reported. Before leaving London, the president described his talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as "very good," saying that the talks dealt with Middle East issues, the Gulf war, and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

A government decree broadcast by Kabul radio pardoned Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Jalaluddin Haqqani, and four other rebel commanders who were sentenced to death in absentia in 1986.

The station also broadcast a statement by the Afghan security authorities concerning the explosions that occurred at the funeral of Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan implicating the mujahidin in the blasts. According to the statement, the incident proves that the "extremists" are acting "in close liaison" with Pakistan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan Intervenes in Iraq-Syria Rift on War

PM261503 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 88 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Damascus-Baghdad Reconciliation in the Balance; Jordanian Efforts Urging Both Capitals To Abide by Collective Arab Decisions"]

[Text] Amman, London, Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In the past few days Jordan has begun a new chapter in its relations with Syria and Iraq. Unlike all its previous moves, which sought to "clear the air" to promote the reconciliation agreed upon at the summit conference over 2 months ago, the new move involves "pressing hard," this time in the direction of Syria, requesting it to adhere to the emergency summit resolutions.

In the message which he sent last week to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad through his Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, King Husayn requested adherence to the summit resolutions, particularly those relating to the attitude to the Iraq-Iran war and the promotion of a permanent, just, and honorable peace in the region; to preventing Iran from continuing its aggression against states which are not parties to the conflict; and to encouraging international efforts for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and for opening the way for several mediating states "which have no direct or individual interest in the matter" to reconcile and bridge the gap between the Arab Gulf states and Iran.

Jordanian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that King Husayn's message came after Baghdad had made extensive contacts with Amman following the tour of five GCC states by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Baghdad asked King Husayn to use Jordan's close ties with Syria, and the fact that Jordan had chaired the summit conference, in pressing to prevent pursuance of the objectives of Syrian mediation between Iran and the GCC states. King Husayn's message to Al-Asad did contain such a request.

Sources well informed on the Jordanian decision have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that in his message King Husayn stressed the need to encourage the intiatives of the Gulf states themselves toward Iran, particularly since the Amman emergency Arab summit and the Riyadh GCC summit had passed resolutions to that effect.

Arab diplomatic sources have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Iraq, which was not happy about the Khaddam and Al-Shar' tour, maintains that the tour means that Damascus separates Iraq from the GCC states and is concentrating on preventing the expansion of the war instead of gearing its main efforts toward ending it.

The diplomatic sources say that the Syrian envoys' tour and Baghdad's reaction have contributed to a slowing down of the process of improving Iraqi-Syrian relations, which were supposed by now to have witnessed "a step forward," such as a ministerial meeting or a high-level security meeting, to tackle the normalization of relations.

All last week the Iraqi press and other media maintained the same level of criticism and verbal attacks on the Khaddam and Al-Shar' tour, questioning "Syrian motives." The Iraqi campaign culminated in a statement by Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim the day before yesterday in which he attacked Syria. He said that "Syria's attempts to prove that Baghdad is eager to establish relations with it bear no resemblance to the truth." He added that his country wants to establish relations with those who honor the principles of collective Arab work.

Jasim also stated: "Nobody has asked these officials to mediate in the Iraq-Iran war and nobody trusts them in view of the fact that they have been Iran's allies over the past period."

Some diplomatic circles see the Iraqi information minister's statement as a direct rebuttal of Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman's remarks, published in a Jordanian paper last Tuesday, in which he asserted: "There are deep differences which will need more contacts to resolve."

Iraq's Hammadi Addresses APU Session in Tunis

JN261350 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, has stressed that the war which the Iranian regime has been conducting against Iraq for more than 7 years endangers the entire Arab nation and greatly compromises its security and political and social options. Addressing the evening session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] in Tunis yesterday, he said that the Iranian military act of aggression against Iraq, which comprised 20 large-scale attacks on the Iraqi Armed Forces, was a total failure. He noted that the Iranian regime had suffered heavy human and material losses during these attacks.

Hammadi added that world public opinion has now realized the danger of the Iranian regime, which seeks to widen the scope of war to include other countries. In this, he said, the Iranian regime is prompted by political aims contrary to the spirit of our age and to the UN and Security Council Charters. Hammadi pointed out that these were among the factors that led the international community to unanimously adopt Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war between Iraq and Iran and for a peaceful settlement to the dispute. Iraq, he explained, responded favorably to the resolution out of

its responsibility and concern for world peace. Iran, on the other hand, rejected the resolution and dealt with it through maneuvers, procrastination, and deception.

Hammadi stressed the importance of Arab unity as a potent factor for preventing the Iranian regime from continuing its aggression. Such unity, he said, will also affect the international stand toward the aggression and urge the Security Council to implement the second phase of Resolution 598 which stipulates that sanctions be imposed on the party that insists on continuing the war. The unity of the Arab stand was and will always remain an important factor in achieving Arab objectives and maintaining pan-Arab security. He pointed to the solidarity achieved at the Amman summit and the positive results which the summit had produced for the Arab cause. Hammadi called on the international community to press the Iranian regime into stopping its aggression against the Arab nation and its threat to world peace and security. He urged the world to impose economic and political sanctions on Iran in order to force it to stop its aggressive policy, which shows disdain for international laws, conventions, and norms.

Regarding the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, Hammadi called on the APU to adopt resolutions that support and guarantee the continuation and escalation of this uprising. He stressed the need to seriously view the dangers threatening Arab security as a result of the current Arab situation. He also stressed the need for resolutions that depend on a pan-Arab view of issues affecting the Arab land, people, and security. Compromising Arab land, people, and security, he stressed, is considered the main taboo in pan-Arab action. He affirmed that the uprising in the occupied territories demands that everyone provide political, financial, human, propaganda, and moral support.

Concluding his speech, Hammadi stressed the need to support the Arab League and its bodies and to implement its charter and the agreements it concluded in order to promote joint Arab action toward a unified stand.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives PRC Envoy in Tunis, Message

JN232102 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the PRC ambassador in Tunis last night. The two sides held a comprehensive review of the situation in the occupied territory, particularly that of our people's heroic uprising against the fascist, racist Zionist occupation authorities.

The PRC ambassador conveyed to the brother leader an important message from the PRC leadership on the situation in the occupied territories. In the message, the PRC leadership reiterated its denunciation of all terrorist actions that violate international law—actions being carried out against our people by the occupation authorities.

The PRC leadership strongly condemned the bestial Zionist measures against the sons of the Palestinian people who are defending their legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PRC leadership also stressed the need to hold an international conference attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent members and all the parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the PRC ambassador to convey the Palestinian people's appreciation for the firm and principled stands of the friendly PRC and its leadership toward the Palestinian people's struggle and their just case.

Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, attended the meeting.

PLO's 'Arafat Receives USSR's Polyakov

LD262107 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at noon yesterday Comrade Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry. Comrade Polyakov brought Brother Abu 'Ammar the greetings and appreciation of the Soviet leadership for the just struggle of our people and their heroic uprising in the face of the occupation authorities.

Comrade Polyakov confirmed his country's firm attitude toward the struggle of our people and their just cause and demanded the swift holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East in the presence of the permanent members of the Security Council and all the concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties.

Comrade Polyakov renewed his country's call for a swift settlement of the Palestine problem which secures for our people their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and an independent state on their national soil.

Yasir 'Arafat Holds News Conference in Tunis

LD271118 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 27 Jan APS—Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, announced yesterday that 6 Palestinians, including 2 women and a 10-year-old child, were martyred, and that 27 Palestinian women had suffered miscarriages in the city of Gaza and nearby as a result of the gas bombs dropped by the Zionist Army helicopters.

In a news conference today in Tunis, Mr 'Arafat pointed out that the gas bombs, which led to miscarriages for Palestinian women, are a new weapon bearing the inscription "Made in USA in 1988." [passage omitted]

Mr 'Arafat said: On the first day of the uprising, we decided that our brother demonstrators should not use firearms. However, Mr 'Arafat pointed out that he has addressed a warning to the Zionist war minister that another decision might reconsider this; it is completely dependent on developments in the Israeli escalation of brutal practices against the Palestinian people and children and women.

As for his talks with the envoy of the Soviet leadership, Mr 'Arafat reported that the day before yesterday he had two rounds of talks with the Soviet official and that the talks continued yesterday. They are a continuation of previous discussions about the Palestinian uprising, the Soviet leadership's and people's support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle, support for the motion of the UN Security Council on studying this matter at the level of foreign ministers of the five permanent members, and ways to hasten the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr 'Arafat evaluated his talks with the Soviet official as positive and constructive.

Mr 'Arafat appreciated the stances recently taken by the U.S. Administration at the UN Security Council in voting for one of the resolutions and abstaining from two others, despite the fact, as he said, that George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, subsequently issued a statement reiterating the unlimited and unconditional support of the United States for the Zionist entity.

He pointed out that the U.S. stance is an important step forward, especially, he added, "as we all know that abstention at the UN Security Council is a form of approval, especially by one of the superpowers, and we should take into consideration that Resolution 605 mentions the occupied Palestinian territories, the Palestinian people, and Palestinian rights including Jerusalem."

However, he noted that the important thing in Resolution 605 is the mention of the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories and not the word "territories," as in Resolution 242.

Jibril Addresses Palestinians on 'Uprising'

JN261223 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Appeal" to the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied territory by PFLP-GC Leader Ahmad Jibril—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O our people in Palestine, the whole of Palestine. I send you our heartfelt greetings. We greet the strong men, the grandsons of 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, 'Ata, Hijazi, and Jamjum. I greet the grandsons of Salah al-Din and Al-Qassam. I greet the heroes who taught the world how the will triumphs over the U.S.-Zionist machine of repression. I greet all the women and girls of Palestine, all the men—young and old. I greet every city, village, camp, street, and alley. I greet every mosque and every church. I greet all of my people.

O my brothers, with your stones you are not only hitting the Zionist presence but also the bad times and the plots, compromises, and sellouts which are aimed against the aspirations of our Palestinian Arab people. You have been able to single-handedly thwart attempts at seeking and joining Camp David. Your uprising had the honor of burying the plot of the war of the camps in Lebanon so that all of our Lebanese and Palestinian nationalists might be in one trench to fight the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon from southern Lebanon.

We are certain that through your blessed uprising you will be able to destroy the humiliating Camp David agreements. Now you can hear reports that our Egyptian Arab people are seething like a volcano. Their revolution is very imminent. Do you know that your splendid struggle has disturbed the arrangement which the Arab reactionaries have set up in the interests of Zionism and U.S. imperialism? Do you know that you have presented our Palestinian cause to the international community, thanks to your strong will?

O our people, O our leaders, young boys, O Palestinian men and women. Your firm popular revolution enjoys our pride, and appreciation. Your revolution inspires us and renews the pledge to continue armed struggle. Your revolution is a pledge of the rifle and the blood, the pledge of the martyrs that we will not be lenient or stop; we will not allow anyone to compromise over the Palestinian cause.

This is a pledge of men to our men and women, to the land and man, to the Palestinian soil, to its plains and mountains, to Palestinian flowers and olives. This is a categorical and irrevocable pledge. We will die so that Palestine will live. Our hands will continue to firmly hold the rifle to liberate Palestine.

Brothers, our people have never stopped their sacrifices despite the enemy attempts to uproot our people. Our people who were born under occupation held firmly to

their genuine identity. Their roots struck deep in the soil so that it might produce men who believed in their God and therefore their God increased their faith.

O our people in Rafah, in Gaza, in all the camps of the Gaza Strip, in every camp in the West Bank, in the Hebron suburbs and in the Galilee, in Nazareth, in Yafo, Haifa, Lod, and Ramlah, and in all villages. You have proved the impossibility of uprooting us from the land. You have proved the impossibility of expunging our presence. Despite the occupation, you are able to take the initiative. You are able to take up the challenges and make sacrifices full of hope for victory and liberation.

When we took up arms in 1965, we fully realized we formed the nucleus of the revolution which could not be complete without you and would not be productive unless those outside meet with those inside, forming a revolutionary unity based on the unity of fate and aims. We were not merely dreaming. We relied on the history of our great nation and on our people's sacrifices in terms of their blood and their suffering in the diaspora. Our people never relented. You have seen how the camp turned into a training field and then into barracks, renewing our sense of pride and dignity. We have seen how entrenched was the faith in the hearts of the Palestinian youths who undertook fedayeen operations, believing in their will and facing new challenges.

We have seen how the Palestinian Arab takes firm steps toward sacrifices. Despite the plots of both the enemies and the brothers, the revolution was always renewed generation after generation. The generation which lived in exile and in the diaspora has never forgotten the land, has not lost its love for the homeland. The dream became a reality. Our people were able to impose their cause on the whole world not with an olive branch, as some claim, but with martyrs, tears, and suffering and with the escalation of armed struggle. What is taken by force cannot be retaken except by force. This is the law which this world understands.

Our people rebelled against all the rules and constitutions which were aimed at pushing them into oblivion. Our people challenged death.

O my brothers, we address ourselves to you. We are carrying the map of the homeland wherever we go. History was not distorted in our imagination. We read only the geography of the homeland. We press your hands and share with you the fate and the unshakable conviction that victory is inevitable. However, victory can be realized by continuing the revolution. Our revolution is pure. It adheres to the path of armed struggle and rejects the compromising, deviationist trend which only harms our people through capitulationist policies and deviationist practices.

O our people, our choice is the same despite the siege and the attempts at plotting against us. We are accustomed to regarding our suffering as a motive for continuous sacrifices. The recent qualitative military operations have demonstrated our correct vision and policy and the need to be firm: Either victory or martyrdom.

The Al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona] battle of martyrdom in 1974 was a new breakthrough. This operation was repeated in the same place in 1987. The name however, was changed to Qibyah, the martyr Palestinian village.

O my brothers, 14 years ago, Martyr Munir al-Mughrabi addressed his mother saying: To you my mother, so you will not give birth to malformed babies in the open, I am building a house for you that cannot be broken into by savage beasts and in which your hopes and children will grow.

Al-Mughrabi was addressing all of our Palestinian Arab mothers. This is how the revolutionary understands the peace of the homeland. Martyrs do not leave. They pave the way for the homeland.

O our people, we are aware that the aims of the sweeping popular revolution in the West Bank and Gaza are now as clear as the sun and as bright as the blood of the martyrs; namely, unconditional withdrawal of the forces of tyranny and Zionism. The uprising's slogan is the return to the homeland and the right of self-determination. There will be no compromises or deviations from these aims. There will be no sellouts; sellouts will not be allowed.

Hero brothers, God be with you. Together we will proceed to realize these aims; together we will preserve the aims of the uprising; together we will loudly repeat that our people, who have been continuing their revolution since 1919, making sacrifices and offering martyrs, and who were expelled in millions, will shout in a loud voice that the whole world might hear that there will no be going back on these aims. We will say together that our great Arab nation is capable of sacrifices and of breaking its chains.

O our people in the whole of Palestine, repeat in a loud voice: God is great, God is great, God is great; glory and dignity to the homeland and to the martyrs, and not to the compromisers and those who sit in the lap of the reactionaries and those who try to hand this giant uprising over to hagglers over capitulationist schemes in cooperation with reactionary regimes and the Camp David regime. Repeat in a loud voice: Palestine is Arab; no to capitulationist solutions.

In conclusion, we swear by the precious blood and the chaste soil that we will not stop our armed struggle. We will continue our daily confrontation and challenges to the Zionist enemy and the reactionary plots. God be with you, victory is very close. Together on the road to the liberation of the land and man.

PNSF Warns Sinyurah, Rahmah on Shultz Meeting
JN261810 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1726 GMT 26 Jan 88

[From the "extraordinary newscast" of the station's test transmission]

[Text] Palestinian resistance factions have issued statements and communiques condemning the visit of Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah to Washington at a time when our people's uprising is escalating. A press statement issued by the PNSF Command on the projected meeting between George Shultz and Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah states the following:

At a time when our people's great uprising in Palestine is escalating, some agent figures are seeking to abort the popular uprising and to subjugate it to Zionism and reactionaries to serve imperialist plots.

In such a context, the projected meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah seeks to circumvent our people's glorious and escalating uprising.

While it condemns such suspect meetings, the PNSF Command warns these people of the consequences of persisting in their feverish endeavors. The PNSF Command affirms that they do not represent our Palestinian people and do not reflect our people's strong will in confronting their enemy in their struggle to liberate their national soil.

Reaction to Shultz Meeting
JN270659 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Commenting on reports that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will meet with Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah to discuss the situation in the occupied territory in light of the popular uprising, Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PFLP-GC deputy secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, said such U.S. attempts aim to abort the uprising and represent an open U.S. ploy to ease the exacerbating Israeli dilemma.

He added that such ploys aim to offer a political bribe and to split Palestinian ranks to circumvent the uprising which now poses a threat to Israel and to U.S. interests in the area.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has addressed a message to the inhabitants of the occupied territory through Al-Quds Radio in which he hailed the uprising that led to burying the camps war in Lebanon. He called for the continuation of the uprising and emphasized that its aim is unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces and achieving the right of self-determination.

We have also heard from 'Abd al-Hadi al-Nashshash, PNSF spokesman, that the PNSF Command has met to continue discussion of ways to support the uprising, adopted a number of measures, and studied the steps that have been implemented in Lebanon's refugee camps. The PNSF Command also studied the urgent means to begin reconstruction of the camps and their neighborhoods. The PNSF Command condemned the new U.S. step.

A meeting was held in Damascus that included the heads of Christian churches in Syria. They took note of the statement issued by the heads of the Orthodox, Catholic, and Anglican churches in Jerusalem on 22 January on the suffering and pain of the inhabitants of the occupied territory. The heads of the churches in Syria unanimously adopted the Jerusalem statement and declared their support for the oppressed and the deportees against the occupation authorities. The heads of the Syrian churches also adopted the call by the churches in Jerusalem to devote Friday in the occupied territory and in Syria to fasting and to devote Sunday to prayers and the collection of contributions for the cause of justice and peace in the holy land.

The heads of Christian sects in Jerusalem had issued a statement declaring that they stand on the side of justice and calling on their followers to express their feelings as an indivisible part of the people of the occupied territory.

Committee Warns Businesses To Observe Strike
JN261550 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1118 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Text" of statement issued by the Uprising's Popular Committee in Qalqilyah on 25 January]

[Text] Brother merchant: In the name of the martyrs, in the name of all honorable people; in the name of the sacred land; in the name of proud Palestine: We call on you to be a Palestinian. We urge you to be the axe that destroys Israeli arrogance. We want you to be the proud rock that shatters all the plots and intrigues hatched by the enemy. We exhort you to rise to the responsibility and to stand by your people in the face of their executioners.

Our brothers in the Gaza Strip and the steadfast camps throughout Palestine are sacrificing their lives and blood for our people. It is shameful to exploit the martyrs' blood and monopolize foodstuff and sell it at astronomical prices. Your sacred duty is to contribute whatever you can. We ask of you no more than to declare a strike and close the shops until the uprising spreads throughout Palestine.

Some businesses are exploiting the situation and are exploiting citizens by raising the price of foodstuff that is indispensible to citizens. They were not content with

such behavior but on several occasions they did not observe the declared strike. We say to them: The eyes of the uprising are watching them.

This statement is a final warning to them and to those like them. We will not repeat the warning, for we will strike with a fist of iron all those who violate the will of our mighty people. Anyone who repeats such acts will be met with an immediate response and without previous warning, beginning with the capital until the entire store is set on fire. We hope we will not be compelled to carry out such action. This warning is a declaration to continue the strike. We hope the following matters will be taken into consideration during the strike:

—The strike begins at 1000 every day.

—The strike does not apply to pharmacies and doctors.

—Storeowners must not stand outside their stores when the strike begins, whatever the cost.

—We will assist all those who suffer as a result of the strike if they prove their good intentions.

—Do not be executioners of your people by increasing prices.

[Signed] The Uprising's Popular Committee [Al-Lijan al-Sha'biyah lil-Intifadah] in the city of Qalqilyah

'Arafat Adviser on Government-in-Exile

PM261505 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 88 p 3

[Unattributed report on interview with 'Imad Shaqqur, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat on Israeli affairs, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] 'Imad Shaqqur, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat on Israeli affairs, has confirmed that the PLO puts all its combat forces as well as material and human resources at the service of Arab solidarity. Shaqqur pointed out that the PLO blesses any step toward Arab solidarity and has no interest in inter-Arab conflicts; it makes its decisions in view of the Palestinian people's interest and general Arab interests. And within this framework Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo will take place at the right time regardless of whether Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation is achieved.

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his visit to Cairo, the Palestinian official said that the PLO's position on the Iraq-Iran war centers on the need to settle this conflict to unify Arab efforts against Israel. The PLO, therefore, is seeking to achieve Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation, Syrian-Egyptian reconciliation, and Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation, since such reconciliations are the only way to achieve Arab solidarity in support of Palestinian struggle.

In this regard, he pointed out that the PLO was a principal party in achieving national reconciliation in Aden. It also played a part in all the good offices committees to end the Iraq-Iran war, including Nonaligned Movement committees and ICO committees. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Imad Shaqqur said the establishment of such a government is linked to the existence of objective circumstances that would secure true interests for the Palestinian people. It is also linked to Egyptian and Jordanian positions, since the West Bank and Gaza fall under the administration of the two sisterly states.

The PLO is currently seeking to announce a Palestinian government-in-exile—an inclination supported by increasing international support for the PLO and in view of the Palestinian people's recent uprising. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as a whole, whether in exile or under Israeli occupation. This is a unanimous Arab decision made at an Arab summit. But this does not negate the distinct Palestinian-Jordanian relationship.

The formation of a confederal government between Jordan and Palestine, so 'Imad Shaqqur says, does not contradict the idea of a Palestinian government-in-exile, since confederation is basically unity between two independent governments. The PLO stresses that the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile is not aimed against Jordan and there is no objection to the Palestinians being represented at an international conference or any other negotiations within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or a unified Arab delegation.

The announcement of a Palestinian government-in-exile would not affect that, since it would participate in a unified Arab delegation as a government or as an organization. The Israeli-Palestinian talks proved that the Arabs support the Palestinian side, and not the other way round, since it is the Palestinians who are capable of discussing their problem; the Arabs cannot negotiate over the Palestinian cause without Palestinian representation in such negotiations.

Shaqqur said that the recent Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was a gain for the Palestinian cause, not for Israel. By this decision the PLO is taking a daring step to attempt to win Israeli public opinion and mobilize it against the Israeli Government. The first benefit of this Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was reflected in the fact that the Israelis themselves have launched demonstrations condemning Israeli barbaric repression against the Palestinian people's recent uprising. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Moroccan Press 'Frenzy' Over Border Rebutted

LD241916 Algiers APS in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 24 Jan (APS)—Under the title "They Are Trying in Vain," the newspaper AL-SHA'B replied in a commentary today—Sunday—to the biased campaign waged by the Moroccan newspapers ALMAGHRIB and L'OPINION against Algeria, concerning an article published by an Algerian magazine in which it talked about Algeria's firm stand regarding respect for the borders inherited at independence.

The newspaper [AL-SHA'B] said "that the frenzy of the Moroccan press shows that the Algerian magazine pinpointed the sensitive weak point in the monarchy, this regime known for its expansionist desires toward neighboring lands in Algeria, the Western Sahara, Mauritania and even Senegal."

The press campaign led by ALMAGHRIB, the mouthpiece of the National Assembly of Independents, and L'OPINION, the mouthpiece of the Istiqlal [Independence] Party, proves the fallacy of freedom of the press and its independence from the ruling authority. It is stupid for this press, expressing the aims and the desires of the politicians, to agree to condemn one of the principles of international law which was unanimously approved by international organizations and bodies which Morocco and Algeria are members of—which is the principle of preserving the borders inherited at independence.

AL-SHA'B added: As for Algeria, it is renowned for its reputation and weight in international circles. It is renowned for its great respect for international laws and conventions, its balanced policy, its eagerness to safeguard stability and peace among peoples, and its persistent efforts to establish relations of goodneighborliness and fraternity with its neighbors. These principles on which Algerian policy are based are not new, but are drawn from its longstanding history of struggle.

Do we need now to prove to the myrmidons of palace corridors, who keep dreaming of having the wheels of history turn according to their whims and fancies, that Algeria has a reputation and weight rooted deep in human history and has had an effective presence in that history through various epochs, at a time when there was no regime on our western borders [words indistinct]?

The paper continued: We have become accustomed to comments such as these and have at times not given them an iota of attention, for they come from fliers practicing deceptive politics, trying to touch the sky while their feet are immersed in mud, and who are practicing deception not only with other peoples and states but with the Moroccan people themselves. There will come a day when this deception, its dimensions, and the myrmidons will be exposed, that is, when the people will make their final pronouncement on them.

When has French imperialism been charitable to Algeria regarding the borders? Algeria paid dearly for sovereignty over its territories and even paid dearly to regain sovereignty over its territories, so Moroccans would enjoy independence; professional Moroccan politicians preferred to dissociate themselves from the joint aspirations of the Arab Maghreb peoples who continued to fight against French colonialism—the Moroccan politicians disavowed these aspirations.

AL-SHA'B further said: "The world knows that Algeria has no expansionist desires and the whole world also knows that the political professionals in Morocco are of the same nature as the Zionist expansionists.

The Moroccan war [as received], which is 14 years old now, and for which the poor sons of the Moroccan people are paying, is but another episode of this policy which was tried in vain on Algeria. This policy was also tried on Mauritania, when Morocco denied the reality of the existence of this independent state until recently and the new episode is still continuing with the Saharan people.

The treason of the professionals of politics in Morocco is a reality understood by the Moroccan people itself. This policy caused them to miss historic occasions to contribute to building the Arab Maghreb."

The newspaper concluded its commentary stressing "that these are people who are making history, and the people of the Arab Maghreb region are trying to achieve their dream of building unity on firm ground, which will enable them to resist economic, political, and even military blocs, and will enable them to play a civilizing role. This is what the sincere leaderships of the Arab Maghreb countries are endeavoring to achieve."

Agreement on Banking, Finances With Libya

LD261830 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The minutes of a meeting were signed this afternoon in Algiers on banking and financial cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria.

The minutes, signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury, and Algerian Finance Minister Abdelaziz Khellef, provide for the strengthening and promoting of banking and financial cooperation, contributions to setting up joint banks for financing joint projects and for strengthening financial establishments. The minutes also provide for encouraging trade banks in the two fraternal countries to link up and become direct correspondents for one another.

The minutes also dealt with the preparation of studies on coordination in the domain of taxes and customs and creating a project to prevent dual taxation. The minutes provide for the setting up of a joint bank that finances foreign trade between the two fraternal countries and between them and other states. They provide also for the financing of economically and financially viable joint projects and strengthening and setting up establishments serving the economies of the two countries.

The minutes of the meeting also provide for a study on the possibility of unifying the currency in both countries.

Building of Malta Ground Station Discussed

LD241103 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The fourth session of the Algerian-Maltese joint commission, jointly chaired by Mostefa Benzaza, Algerian minister of posts and telecommunications, and Vincent Tabone, Maltese minister of foreign affairs, continued today. During the proceedings, the two sides assessed bilateral relations and discussed ways of improving them through cooperation, especially in the field of industry and the repairing of ships, in which Malta has wide experience.

In this context, the two sides discussed the construction of a ground station in Malta by Algeria, which would enable it to use the international telecommunications system via satellite and facilitate telephone contacts between Malta and Algeria.

At the end of the proceedings the two ministers expressed their satisfaction with the relations of friendship and solidarity which have been built over the years and the firm cultural principles woven by Algeria and Malta.

Cuban Official Delivers Message to Bendjedid

LD232334 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola [title as heard] arrived in Algiers this afternoon. He is carrying a message from President Fidel Castro for Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN. On arrival, the Cuban minister was welcomed by Ismail Hamdani, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, and the Cuban ambassador in Algiers.

Egypt

Blast Hits Hilton's AL-AHRAM Bookshop

NC261452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1434 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—An explosion took place this afternoon in AL-AHRAM's bookshop in the Nile Hilton Hotel annex in the Al-Tahrir Square of Cairo. The bookshop windows and those of a nearby shop were shattered by the blast.

Owners of nearby shops in the hotel annex called the security services as soon as they heard the explosion. Officials from various departments in the Interior Ministry immediately rushed to the scene. Preliminary investigations indicate that a bookshop employee was inside when the explosion occurred, but neither he nor anyone in the area was injured. There was limited damage to some books in the shop.

Interior Ministry authorities and forensic laboratory experts are investigating the incident and its causes. The Public Prosecutor's Office has also begun its investigation.

Further on Mubarak Tour of Western Countries

Holds Talks in FRG, UK

For media coverage of President Husni Mubarak's visits to the FRG and the United Kingdom, please refer to the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom sections of the 25 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Arrives in Washington 26 Jan

NC262231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Washington, 26 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his wife arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 0015 Cairo time, 1715 Washington time.

Mubarak Examines Domestic, Regional Issues

NC241518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that the Arabs can tackle their problems through goodwill, cooperation, and coordination. Stating that discord is the cause of many Arab problems, the president cited the Collective Arab Defense Pact as an example. The pact, he said, cannot be discussed unless the Arabs sit down together and debate the ways and instances in which it could be put into effect. It would not be logical, he added, for one country to provoke another into war and then invoke the pact.

In the absence of a unified Arab stand on the Iraq-Iran war, and given continued Iranian intransigence, the war will go on depleting the resources of Arab countries, as well as those of the Iranian people, he stated. It is neither the Arabs nor Iran but powers far away from this region that benefit from the continued hostilities in the Gulf, he added.

Mubarak declared that Egypt is exerting political and military efforts to help Iraq in this war. These efforts have not been halted, he said, because Iraq is a country which is defending itself.

Concerning the Middle East situation and Egypt's concept of the international conference for Middle East peace, the president affirmed that such a conference is not an end in itself but offers the means to resolve the issue in a just and comprehensive way and to bring peace, tranquility, and security to the region. The president made these remarks in an interview with the Saudi AL-YAWM newspaper, which will appear in tomorrow's edition of that publication.

Asked about claims that Egypt would dispatch 10,000 Egyptian troops to Gulf countries as a way of implementing the Collective Arab Defense Pact, Mubarak replied: Such reports are untrue and I, as president of Egypt, totally deny them. Is the implementation of the Collective Defense Pact, the president asked, the responsibility of Egypt alone? Egypt has commitments in this regard, he affirmed, but it is not the only country that does.

Should Egypt send troops to any country, Mubarak said, this would be seen as an attempt on our part to establish axes of power. No country wants another to fight its battles for it. The presence of Egyptian troops in this area would lead to an escalation of hostilities. If Egypt were to send its troops to any Arab country, Mubarak noted, the other party to the war would request troops from elsewhere and the fighting would escalate. President Mubarak then called on the Arab countries to implement the Collective Defense Pact to confront the Iranian and any other threat in the region.

When asked if Egyptian military industry is capable of producing enough to meet Arab needs, the president replied that Egypt produces numerous weapons. However, he added, self-sufficiency is not feasible for us or for anyone else. He stated that the Arab Industrialization Organization belongs to all the Arabs and that if other countries wanted to set up their own military industries, they could do so. It is useful, he said, to increase the number of factories producing military equipment so long as there is some coordination among Arab countries in this respect.

Alluding to the emergency Arab summit which convened in Amman last November, President Mubarak asserted that the summit was a starting point toward unifying Arab stands. In this regard, he praised the efforts that King Husayn of Jordan had made and is still making to unify the Arabs. President Mubarak expressed his confidence in King Husayn's efforts and moves and in those of other Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia. He added that these efforts would enable the Arabs to attain the minimum degree of accord necessary to safeguard their dignity and render them a force to be reckoned with.

President Mubarak was asked about direct exchanges said to have taken place between Cairo and Tehran in Bucharest with regard to the issue of Egyptian prisoners and the Iranian assets frozen in Egypt since the overthrow of the shah. He declared that Egypt had conducted no official exchanges whatsoever with Iran. He said that Iran invites groups of a certain tendency to visit Iran.

As for Egyptian-Soviet relations, President Mubarak said that these relations are generally quite good. He noted that there are trade agreements, exchanges of commodities, and exchanges of view on important issues, particularly the Middle East problem.

Asked what could be done to curb Israeli infiltration into Africa, President Mubarak replied that only when the Arabs achieve a comprehensive accord would it be possible to confront this issue. He went on to say that Israeli activity in Africa is receiving the support of many forces. In this connection he called for Arab-African cooperation to confront Israel.

Commenting on the successful GCC summit which convened in Riyadh recently, President Mubarak expressed his utmost pleasure at the favorable outcome of this summit, adding that any accord between one Arab state and another would make him happy. The existence of an accord among Arab countries would serve Egypt, he said, pointing out that dialogue is the best way of choosing the right road and safeguarding the Arab nation's entity and safety.

In this regard, President Mubarak praised Saudi Arabia's endeavors and efforts to achieve Arab accord. He added that Saudi Arabia, which enjoys a prominent position, has tried and is still trying very hard to achieve Arab accord, noting that the Kingdom's efforts during the Amman and ICO summits were outstanding and deserve our appreciation and respect. President Mubarak said that Egyptian-Saudi relations have always been distinguished and continuous. He pointed out that the resumption of relations has added nothing to the situation except that officials in the two countries are now able to hold consultations and meetings for the benefit of the Arabs and the Muslims.

In his interview with AL-YAWM, President Mubarak discussed a number of local issues. Asked about reports that certain changes might be introduced into some laws to support the democratic course in Egypt, he replied that the system of holding elections on the basis of party lists had helped certain members of the current opposition to become members of the People's Assembly. He noted that this subject could be reconsidered at a later date or during future elections.

President Mubarak added that many things have escaped the notice of those who call for amending the Constitution. They would have never had the time to think of those matters had they been in a position of responsibility. He affirmed that Egypt's economic problem should receive top priority and that when this problem has been resolved there will be nothing to worry about.

Some people have called for the abolition of the public sector, while others have called for its retention. Responding to a question on this topic, President Mubarak declared that the public sector will remain. No one can abolish it, he said, because for a number of industries it constitutes a basis for maintaining a balance in prices for people on low incomes. He noted that if the private sector were given a free hand and everyone were to set his own price, then the people on low incomes would suffer.

President Mubarak touched on the subject of Egyptian debts, particularly military debts, saying that the chief problem lies with the military debts. Egypt is paying some $800 million in interest every year on these debts, he stated. He added that there is no problem regarding other debts, as these are being rescheduled. He said talks with the U.S. Administration are continuing in order that this debt issue may also be resolved.

Asked whether there is any Arab initiative to help Egypt ride out its economic crisis, President Mubarak asserted that the Arab brothers never hesitate to help Egypt during any crisis.

Turning to the Tabah issue, President Mubarak said that Israel has rejected new U.S. proposals concerning Tabah and is seeking to bring pressure to bear on Egypt, but, he added, Egypt rejects and does not accept pressures. He added that arbitration is continuing.

Asked about Egypt's response to propaganda campaigns by certain parties, President Mubarak replied that the objectives of those who insult Egypt are clearly declared and are against the Arabs. He noted that Egypt does not expect the foreign media to champion any Arab cause.

Assembly Approves Sidqi Policy Statement
NC261843 Cairo MENA in English 1725 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 26 (MENA)—The People's Assembly approved at its sitting of today Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government policy statement with an overwhelming majority.

The Assembly renewed confidence in the National Democratic Party's government and its policies as drawn up in the statement.

Speaker Dr. Rif'at Al-Mahjub, who chaired the session, congratulated the prime minister and members of the Cabinet on that confidence and wished them every success.

Soviet, PRC Officials Address OAU Seminar
NC261755 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Anatoliy Gromyko, director of the Africa Institute in Moscow, today called on African countries to settle conflicts among the OAU members, to solve border disputes, and to reassess their positions in that regard.

In a speech to the seminar being held in Cairo to mark the 25th anniversary of the OAU, Gromyko said that the organization has worked to encourage African countries to depend on their own natural and human resources in order to confront the economic crisis. It has also sought to make Africa a nuclear-free zone in order to maintain world peace and security. [passage omitted]

Zhou Shanan [name as received], deputy director of the Chinese Institute of International Studies, told the seminar that Western countries cannot fulfill Africa's needs and stressed the necessity for Africa to depend on itself to confront its debt problem. He called on the OAU to continue to confront the issue of racial discrimination and the Pretoria government's racist practices, as well as to work to apply international sanctions against the South African Government. [passage omitted]

Libya

'Red Indians' To Hold Congress in Tripoli
LD261927 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Jan (JANA)—The first international conference of Red Indians will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah at the international center in Tripoli from 30 January to 2 February under the slogan: "For the liberation of the Red Indians' nation."

The conference, which will be attended by Red Indian public figures from North, Central and South America, as well as from among those who are living outside the circle of annihilation, will discuss a number of issues of interest to this nation torn apart by U.S. persecution and the issues likely to unify it. This stems from the fact that nations which have existed in the past have the right to adhere to their own national identity and to bring together their sons, who have been subjected to eviction and geographical dispersal, in order to correct the historicly accumulated facts related to this problem.

Bendjedid Message Delivered to Al-Qadhdhafi
LD271012 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, who conveyed to him a message from the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The ambassador left Tripoli afterwards to Algeria carrying the leader's reply to President Bendjedid.

Mauritania

President Taya Meets With SDAR's Salek

LD250437 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, today received Mr Mohammed Ould Salek, secretary general of the SDAR. The meeting was attended by (Mlih Ould Weddadi), director of the Office of the Chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Head of State.

After the meeting, the Saharan guest made the following statement to our correspondent: I was happy to meet with his execellency the president. I took this opportunity to inform him about the latest developments in our region and around it [words indistinct].

Briefs

Debt Rescheduling Pact

Cheikh Ould Ahmed Louly, minister of finance and the economy, and Helmut van Edig, FRG ambassador to Mauritania, signed an agreement today on the rescheduling of debts. The sum involved is DM 357,868,085 or 145 million ouguiya. The agreement, reached in accordance with the recommendations of our meeting in Paris on 15 June, concerns the commercial debt guaranteed by German financial bodies. As to the public debt, it is being studied in an effort to abolish it after the listing of our country among the less-developed states. The rescheduling signed today concerns the period 1 April 1987 to 31 May 1988. The scheduling is to be implemented according to the following terms: Repay 5% during the contracted periods, and the remaining 95% to be repaid over 15 years, including a 5-year grace period. The interest on the latter is 6.5%. [Excerpt] [*Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Jan 88 LD*]

Sudan

Government Handling of Killing Criticized

JN261355 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 26 (SUNA)—The secretary general of the Islamic National Front (INF) Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi has described the assassination of a Shi'ite Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi Hakim in Sudan this month as "scandal".

In a statement to the daily AL-SUDANI today Al-Turabi accused the government of veering (public) attention from the crime itself to political disputes within the government over who is responsibility in protecting the assassinated man. Al-Turabi has called for bringing to justice those responsible for Al-Hakim's death. He said the assassination of Al-Hakim has unveiled the serious security situation in Sudan and that INF always been pinpointing to the issue of security.

Southern Parties, Militias Form Rescue Front

JN262000 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 26 (SUNA)—A front for rescuing the southern Sudan from a catastrophe was formed here today from some militia and southern political parties.

Chairman of the Council of the South Mathieu Ubor [name as received] who was elected as a chairman of the front said in his address to the meeting 80 percent of the war victims in the south are civilian and the rest are from the Armed Forces and Sudan Peoples Liberation Army "SPLA".

The south is deeply affected by the war and famine Ubor said confirming that the front is seeking rescuing the south from disasters.

Khartoum, Neighbors Troubled by Garang Rebels

PM261209 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jan 88 p 31, 32

['Afaf Zayn Report: "Islamic Front Participates in Government To Preserve Its Gains During Numayri's Era"!]

[Excerpts] In his recent speech before the Constituent Assembly, [Sudanese Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that "the rebel movement's leadership has agreed to an immediate cease-fire providing the government abolishes the emergency law which has been in effect for 6 months." The Sudanese prime minister's statements on the sudden softening of the rebel movement's position were made only 1 day after 11 Sudanese parties, including 9 southern parties, signed the so-called Sudan charter. [passage omitted]

The coincidence referred to earlier, that is, between the signing of the charter document and the statements made by Al-Mahdi on Colonel Garang's response to the call for a cease-fire, prompted observers to believe that the rebel movement, though tacitly, has blessed the Sudan charter. But circles within the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in London have categorically refuted this and condemned the charter, considering it "a new political game launched by Khartoum to gain time and to incite the Arab world against the proposals and moves made by the People's Movement, which is struggling to achieve a single Sudanese homeland and not to consecrate demographic islands as the charter would inevitably do."

Circles within the Anya Nya Movement I, which fought in southern Sudan for 17 years and signed the Addis Ababa agreement with former President Ja'far Numayri, told AL-HAWADITH: The new stands adopted by Col

John Garang's group are attributable to Libyan mediation, which Tripoli effected through Aden in order to urge Ethiopia to break its new links with the rebel movement in east Sudan. It was these links which resulted in comprehensive logistic support for Col Garang's forces, thus enabling them to occupy the two towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan late last year.

Rumors in London about the Libyan mediation are credible in view of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's official visit to Tripoli after the fall of Kurmuk. AL-HAWADITH inquired about the mediation within Sudanese rebel movement circles in London. These circles kept silent about the matter and preferred to neither refute nor confirm the Libyan endeavor and its achievement, namely, the rebel movement's acceptance of a cease-fire with the government in Khartoum, the first cease-fire mentioned since the downing of a Sudanese cargo plane by a rebel-launched rocket. This incident marked the downfall of the Peace Ministry in mid-August 1986.

The Libyan mediation was not denied by Sudanese diplomatic circles in Tripoli. However, they preferred not to discuss it in detail, probably out of a desire to achieve beneficial results. Whereas a well-informed source at the Libyan Foreign Ministry told AL-HAWADITH: The endeavor you refer to, or those made before, fall within the framework of our special care for Sudan, since we share common ambitions and objectives. We are proceeding together toward joint unionist political action.

Undoubtedly, John Garang is first and foremost the strategic enemy of both of us, as well as being an enemy to Arabism and its strong roots in the African Continent. However, the "strategic enmity" between Col John Garang and Tripoli is new. At the center of this enmity is the ongoing conflict in Chad, where the most strange alliances in Arab and international politics are being hatched. [passage omitted]

Col Garang's fact-finding visit to Chad took him to certain areas in west Sudan. A well-informed source told AL-HAWADITH that Garang considered the possibility of a new location, yet to be decided, currently occupied by a number of the rebel movement's fighters who would be transferred from south to west Sudan. President Habre promised to ensure all "requirements conducive to sedition" if he managed to infiltrate into the hot triangle between the Libyan, Chadian, and Sudanese borders.

Col John Garang's visit to west Sudan was followed by a more important visit from U.S. Colonel Crist, commander of U.S. Armed Forces Central Command, who recently visited Sudan at the head of a high-ranking military delegation late last year. The U.S. military man Crist insisted on visiting west Sudan. Eventually he arrived, probably accidentally, in areas adjacent to those visited by Col John Garang.

Khartoum's troubles with its rebellious colonel do not compare with those which the colonel's allies encounter with a man who is good at slithering, like mercury, out of questions and difficult situations. But Tripoli, and also Addis Ababa, cannot keep quiet about the arrival of the mercurial colonel in the hot triangle. Although the Aden alliance is still ink on paper in terms of decisions and tangible practical steps, the states of this alliance cannot keep silent about a new explosive spot in west Sudan that would impose a siege on Khartoum, threaten the Jamahiriyah at the eastern gates of Aozou, and violate the principles of the alliance, all of which brought the mercurial colonel closer to east Sudan through Ethiopia's amity and its leader's absolute support.

Well-informed sources in Tripoli told AL-HAWADITH that the Libyan envoy, who left Tripoli after Al-Mahdi's visit, "was acting on the basis of pan-Arab motives in the interest of security in the region." He left Tripoli for Aden and then, accompanied by a PDRY official, for Addis Ababa, where a secret meeting was held between Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh, the Libyan envoy, and Aden's envoy. During the meeting the two envoys were eager to explain the dangers of expanding the rebel movement's domain and kindling new centers of sedition, be they in the hot triangle or east Sudan. The Ethiopian leadership was briefed on the suspected visits repeatedly made to areas in west Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Information Minister Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm talked to AL-HAWADITH about these matters: [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the objective of the opposition represented by the [National Islamic] Front in causing the chaos you have referred to? Do they have an alternative plan or do you believe they are aiming at seizing power?

Al-Tawm: They are trying to prove themselves as a force represented in parliament by 53 deputies and to make their presence felt on the scene so they can instigate riots and demonstrations in educational institutions. They are doing this to force the ruling coalition to include them in power, otherwise they will cause trouble for it in the difficult circumstances resulting from the economic crisis and high cost of living. This is to disturb the regime.

AL-HAWADITH: The [National] Islamic Front has more than once expressed its disagreement with the idea of participating in the coalition government.

Al-Tawm: We know they do support the idea of participating in government in order for them to preserve the gains they made through their participation in Numayri's rule. Their financial position is good and their economic position has improved through the Islamic banks which have been used for their own interests. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Crown Prince Chairs Cabinet Meeting 26 Jan

LD261913 Kuwait KUNA in English 1805 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 26 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah headed Tuesday the regular meeting for the Cabinet in which he summed up the achievements of the previous 18 months.

In his speech, Shaykh Sa'd said on the political side Kuwait has succeeded in hosting the Islamic summit, participated in all Arab conferences including the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, and supported all efforts seeking an end to the prolonged war between Iran and Iraq.

He also touched on all major developments in Kuwait such as the establishment of a supreme council for planning, a supreme council for oil, a supreme council for education and the issuance of general educational law.

In the economic field, he noted, the government worked hard to implement the program of difficult debts settlements, a problem that has plagued the country for several years.

He also mentioned the decree allowing the government to issue bonds worth 1,400 million Kuwaiti dinars for the public.

The premier expressed appreciation for three resigning ministers, noting that they have worked sincerely to fulfill their duties and obligations. The reshuffle that was announced Tuesday brought three new faces to the Cabinet. The three previous ministers, who served for a year and a half, expressed their desire to resign.

In today's Cabinet meeting, the Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the recent Arab foreign ministers' urgent meeting in Tunisia. He said the decisions of the meeting met the challenges facing the Arab nation, especially the Israeli threat to Arab Palestinians living under occupation.

The Cabinet also listened to a report by Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi on his recent tour in the Far East and the Pacific. The minister briefed the Council of Ministers on the details of his talks with leaders of the countries he visited.

PDRY

Law on 1988 Economic, Social Plan Issued

EA252030 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, issued the first law of 1988 on the approval of the plan for the third year of the third 5-year plan for economic and social development for 1985-1990.

The first article provided for approval of the 1988 economic and social plan, which was ratified by Council of Ministers Resolution 181 of 1987.

The second article stipulates that the prime minister is responsible for taking measures to implement the objectives of the plan, its indices, and the projects included in it in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

The third article makes ministers and chairmen of the central organs and executive offices responsible, each within his powers and the tasks set him, for ensuring achievement of the plan's goals.

The fourth article of the law exempted imports for plan projects and those to be included in the 1988 investment plan from taxation and customs duties.

The fifth article of the law stipulated that the minister of planning should issue the necessary decisions and instructions for implementing this law and achieving its goals.

The remaining articles of the law stipulated its implementation from 1 January 1988 and its publication in the official gazette.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD251905 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting held this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA the following:

Within the context of the task undertaken by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in the resolutions of the GCC Supreme Council held in Riyadh on 26 December 1987 demanding that the international community, with the UN Security Council at the forefront, shoulder its responsibility and take the necessary steps to implement Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran war, the beloved king has apprised the Council of Ministers on the contents of the messages he has sent on behalf of the heads of the GCC member

states to the heads of the UN Security Council permanent and non-permanent members. These messages were delivered by emissaries including Saudi princes, ministers, and ambassadors.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: In addition, the custodian of the two holy mosques acquainted the Council of Ministers with the progress of the continuing efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through intensive contacts with various countries and international organizations, to put an urgent end to Israeli repressive campaigns and the hostile and tyrannical acts practiced by the Israeli occupation forces against the sons of our Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. This is in accordance with the resolution of the GCC Supreme Council adopted at its eighth session convened in Riyadh on 26 December 1987.

The resolution stipulates GCC support for the Palestinian uprising with all possible resources and authorizes the chairman to send messages to UN Security Council permanent members regarding this issue in view of its importance. The events in the occupied territories constitute an enormous development and a qualitative transformation in the history of the Palestinian people's struggle. [passage omitted]

The information minister went on to say that the Council was then acquainted, under noble guidance, with a summary of reports pertaining to recent political and security developments in the Arab arena. The Council continues to have deep interest in the developments in occupied Palestine, which are included in these reports. [passage omitted]

Iraq's 'Aziz Delivers Message, Departs
LD252317 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2218 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Riyadh tonight after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he conveyed a verbal message to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi minister was seen off at King Khalid airport by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; Ambassador Tawfiq al-Alamdar, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Tirad al-Harithi, Saudi ambassador to Iraq.

Iran-Israel 'Mutual Understanding' Viewed
LD242332 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jan 88

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Brothers, may God's peace, blessing, and benediction be upon you. An Iranian opposition leader—Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the former head of the Iranian Government now in exile—has asserted that Israel has, through its contacts with today's ruling authority in Tehran, urged the ruler of Iran to accelerate the new offensive against Iraq to give Israel the opportunity to quell the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

It is known that the growth of relations between Israel and the ruling authority in Tehran has created some kind of mutual understanding and a desire to deepen the ties between Tel Aviv and Tehran. This follows the Tehran rulers' feeling that the world has abandoned them and that their sole resource in getting arms is Israel, which has been mobilizing a group of Jewish arms brokers in various parts of the world to meet Tehran's arms needs at exorbitant prices.

Within this context the rulers of Tehran are eager to deepen the close relations existing between them and Israel because the rulers of Tehran have become more convinced than ever—as they are at their wit's end and all roads have been closed to them—that Israel is their natural ally.

Today, the disclosure by former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr that Israel is pushing the Khomeyni regime, through their existing contacts, to launch a new offensive against Iraq so that Israel can liquidate the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, means it is an endeavor to divert international attention from the Palestinian uprising.

Such an act is, however, not new for the Khomeyni regime—which is currently in the same trench as the enemy of Arabs and Muslims—which thinks alliance with Israel would prolong the life of the Khomeyni regime which has been suffering from successive ailments. Such ailments, which are of its own making, are, moreover, the outcome of the regime's own ignorance and its inability to deal with developments because of the Khomeyni regime's irrational and anachronistic behavior.

It is obvious that the Iranian people's fear and exasperation has grown lately, particularly the fear and exasperation of the intelligentsia who have become categorically convinced that the ruling regime is leading the country to destruction in a stupid and foolish manner. This is a matter which has created a schism within the ranks of the Iranian leadership, a schism which has intensified recently, a matter which has prompted Khomeyni to send a threatening message to the president of the Republic accusing him of having deviated from the political line drawn up by the so-called religious leadership.

Observers believe, therefore, that such a situation of tension, originating from the exchange of accusations between the ruling leaderships, is an indication of an imminent explosion which would burn in its fire the ruling clique—a clique which has belittled the Iranian

people's capabilities and sought to use them in accordance with its own lust and rancor to the detriment of their own good and the good of others.

Yemen Arab Republic

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Deputy Premier

PM261709 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jan 88 pp 35, 36

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Some reports refer to a deterioration in YAR-PDRY relations in view of the Aden Government's insistence on implementing the death sentences passed on its former leaders and its failure to respond to mediation efforts by numerous states and figures, including the YAR. What truth is there in such reports?

Makki: I recall that YAR Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani has already answered some of these queries recently. We consider the two parts of Yemen to be one entity. We maintain our relations on this basis. Estrangement or amity always fall within the framework of brotherhood and fraternity. As for the question of the death sentences, we and others have made distinct efforts on a purely humanitarian basis. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Some doubt the PDRY Government actually implemented any of the death sentences.

Makki: I do not know any anything in this regard. We have nothing to prove or refute that; we have read it in the press. We hope there will be no executions. The decision in this regard was made and the presidency made its own decision as well. As for the implementation, we do not know anything about it. What I want to confirm is that we maintain brotherly relations and we are still striving to unite the two parts [of Yemen]. We shall continue joint efforts to achieve that, since it is in the interest of both the Yemeni people and the Arab nation.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think the presence of [former PDRY President] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in the YAR is the cause of the crisis and that his departure to another state would resolve differences?

Makki: I do not know anything about that. 'Ali Nasir, as a Yemeni citizen and not necessarily in his capacity as president, has the right to stay in his country, Yemen, whether in Sanaa or any other Yemeni city, instead of being a refugee or traveler. This is our understanding and there is no embarrassment or disgrace in his staying in his country. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It is known that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has recently made extensive mediation efforts between Egypt and Libya. Do you believe recent signs indicate this mediation has failed?

Makki: We believe our duty is to work toward achieving solidarity among all Arab states and eliminating any problem or obstacle between Arab brothers. In fact they are linked to each other with ties of kinship more than any other countries. It is our duty in Yemen to work toward resolving any problem and reconcile the two countries. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: But can it be said that circumstances between the two countries are appropriate for such reconciliations?

Makki: We are not talking of reconciliations. We are talking about our playing a role in solving current outstanding problems. We are seeking t[illegible]ase them so that they will not worsen. As for reconciliation, the two states have the right to reconciliation in their own way. This role can be played by others, but if we are asked to play a reconciliation role, we would be willing to make our efforts within this framework. We are now working to eliminate severe obstacles and problems and this is our duty. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Iraq-Iran war issue is one of those to be discussed at the solidarity committee meetings and Yemen has a firm stand in this regard. Do you believe the war might end in the near future?

Makki: We hope the war will end, since it brings nothing good for the two Muslim peoples, the Arab Iraqi people and the Muslim Iranian people. On the basis of its belief in pan-Arabism and the joint defense pact, Yemen supports Iraq's steadfastness and the right to defend its territories. We call on all states of the world to make efforts to urge Iran to stop the war and turn to peace so that both countries can solve their problems through peaceful negotiations. This is our duty, which is a sacred one. We believe in the saying: "Fight alongside your brother and work for truth."

We are for dialogue and peace. Nevertheless, we support Iraq. We believe ending the war would eliminate the great powers' influence in the Gulf and give the peoples of the region a major role. World peace must protect peoples' rights, not the interests of the great powers. Peace cannot be achieved through the great powers' ships, but rather through international will aimed at supporting the Security Council resolution and stopping the arms trade.

AL-HAWADITH: There has been talk recently of forming an Arab deterrent force whose objective would be not to fight Iran, but rather to pressure it to respond to peace calls. How would you assess such a step?

Makki: What we know is that Iraq is steadfast and chiefly relies on its own brave Army and united people in defending its legitimate rights. Iraq is capable of resisting and fighting. We hope peaceful efforts will prevent an expansion of the war zone. All our forces must be directed at the true enemy, which, in our opinion, is Israel. [passage omitted]

President, King Husayn Begin Baghdad Talks

JN261538 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (PETRA)—The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side under President Saddam Husayn began official talks in Baghdad this afternoon. His Majesty King Husayn briefed His Excellency Saddam Husayn on the details of the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The talks also dealt with the Iraq-Iran war and the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war. The two leaders also discussed the united Arab stand on the international Middle East peace conference and exchanged views prior to His Majesty King Husayn's forthcoming tour of several European countries.

Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan abu 'Awdah, court minister; Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief; Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, information minister; and Hilmi al-Lawzi, Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, attended the talks for Jordan. Iraq was represented by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office.

His Majesty King Husayn and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad at noon today. His majesty was accorded an official reception. President Saddam Husayn led those who welcomed his majesty upon arrival. Also present to welcome his majesty were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; RCC members; ministers; and ranking state officials.

King Husayn Departs

JN261653 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan has arrived in Baghdad on an official visit to the country. His majesty was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal held a round of talks. The issues discussed during the talks included the strong fraternal relations between the two sister countries, the general Arab situation, and Iraq's capability and high readiness to defeat and wipe out the Iranian regime's aggression. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn left Baghdad at the conclusion of a brief visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn led those who saw his majesty off. Also present were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; a number of RCC members; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; ministers; and senior officials.

President Presides Over RCC-Ba'th Meeting

JN261657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn presided over a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, reviewed the results of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council held in Tunis on 24 January, the results of his visit to Saudi Arabia, and current Arab and international political developments.

Saddam Husayn on Gulf War, Ties With Syria

JN261030 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 88 p 19

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Jordanian journalists Mahmud al-Kayid of AL-RA'Y, 'Abd al-Salam al-Tarawinah of AL-DUSTUR, and Sultan al-Hattab of SAWT AL-SHA'B in Baghdad on 24 January]

[Text] Journalists: We are pleased to have the honor of meeting with Your Excellency to be reassured about your health and to hear what you have to tell us. When we come to Baghdad, we Jordanian journalists do not regard ourselves as journalists but citizens in our own country. We regard ourselves as your brothers.

The President: You are in your own country and among your brothers.

Journalists: When we ask Your Excellency questions we do not seek to seize an opportunity as journalists do. We like to hear what you have to say, wishing Your Excellency good health and saluting the Iraqi people and Armed Forces, which are recording daily epics of heroism. Greetings to all of them. We are pleased to have this opportunity of meeting with you.

The President: God bless you. We also do not deal with you as we deal with others. We regard your journalistic work as an Arab task, aimed at enlightening the Arab readers and conveying to them an honest assessment of their fateful, basic issues.

Concerning the worries of the Arab nation, I do not like questions and answers in the traditional way, even with foreign reporters. We do not deal with life or view it in a technical way. We take life as a whole in all its aspects from both the intellectual and practical points of view. The Arab conditions are at the center of this life. Therefore, questions and short answers do not explain

the actual Arab conditions and their dimensions and our views of the Arab future. I mean that the Arab conditions are at the center of Arab life. They constitute the Arabs' entire worries and aspirations and the plots being hatched against them.

When we ask a definite question, the answer may be a definite, technical one. But is this answer satisfactory in terms of our aspirations and future aims? Without seeing the prospects for the future we are going to live we cannot choose the most suitable and effective means. To deal with the current circumstances in our country and choose ad hoc solutions without considering the future is useless and harmful.

When nations plan for the future, they can take correct steps forward. However, many nations developed over many centuries. They enriched their peoples' lives culturally, politically, and psychologically by following this course. This resulted in the fact that they no longer base their rejections and agreements on their current circumstances but take a comprehensive view of the present and the future in accordance with objective factors which can determine their choice.

Therefore, when the leaders of these nations act on isolated considerations and from limited standpoints, the danger will be less than the danger facing the Arab nation if it acts in isolation from the present and the future.

For instance, how do we regard the Amman summit? Why was the Amman summit regarded as unique? It was unique because the Arabs regarded the bad circumstances which preceded it as unacceptable from the psychological, emotional, and future points of view. Moreover, during many previous Arab summits, dialogues were held within a narrow framework and, in many cases, decisions on points on the agenda were made in the hallways prior to the official session.

Therefore, the Amman summit was unique because it abandoned the previous methods which had not met the requirements of a better Arab future. These methods were known to Arabs one way or another. Dialogue was wide open at the summit which is necessary to improve the Arab situation and contacts. There can be no interaction without dialogue. We cannot distinguish right from wrong without dialogue and we cannot know each other and be able to deal with our problems and solve them.

An in-depth, frank, and direct dialogue took place during the Amman summit and at the eight-man meeting which was attended by His Majesty King Husayn, Prince 'Abdallah, Amir Jabir, President al-Asad, the Algerian president, President 'Abdallah Salih, and Saddam Husayn.

What was done at these meetings was not done before. Direct talks were held and the i's were dotted. Matters were not left for guesswork so attendees would avoid one-sided views of problems. Things were specified and an analysis made. The conferees disagreed and then reached agreement. Or it appeared that there had been agreement on the overall analysis of raised issues. Such a meeting is very useful.

Because of the nature of the raised problems, or let us say the problems that existed before and during the Amman summit, having such a dialogue at the eight-man meeting or in front of all summit attendees was very useful. It seemed to the conferees that all parties had agreed to the resolutions, including the Syrians. This means they accepted the analysis. Afterward, reports have begun to be heard about statements, instructions, contacts, and activities which appear to be a return to the climate which preceded the Amman summit.

Dialogue at the Amman summit centered on one basic, central concept: If we are one nation—and we are—a minimum honorable Arab position necessitates that we should not harm each other in implementing tendencies far from the true nature of the Arab nation and its interests, or in implementing non-Arab policies. If one of us is unable to effectively and genuinely contribute toward joint action to confront dangers and play a role in reconstruction— since the Arab nation's mission is not only confronting problems and dangers, but to perform the duty of reconstruction—he at least must not ally himself with the Arab nation's enemies.

Therefore, saying that we have unchanging strategic relations with Iran while it is attacking Iraq and explicitly announcing that it aims against Iraq's territory, people, and security, and aims against the security of other Arab states in the Gulf and attacks them, can only be considered support for Iran at the expense of the Arab nation.

Therefore, this completely contradicts the essence of the Amman summit and what has been said about a change in stands.

Is this a call for returning to the situation which preceded the Amman summit? Or is it an attempt to blackmail the Iranians and the Arabs through deceitful games to achieve ignoble goals, which is the best that can be said about these goals. I will not talk in detail about this subject. What I have said so far is enough.

We Iraqis responded to the sentiments of our brothers not because we want anybody's support against Iran because we are weak. We only request help from God Almighty and honorable brothers. We are not weak, praise be to God. We are people defending our rights. Our people have given hundreds of thousands of casualties and are still offering sacrifices, as you know. We are

not a people who beg for stands. We are not of this sort. We are not the sort to beg stands even if our legs have been cut off and we have to crawl on our hands.

He who has illusions must reconsider his stands and must know that he is weaker than the weakest Iraqi on the land of Iraq. He must accept to tread the correct path of the Arab nation. This is because he needs such a stand more than Iraq needs it. He needs such a stand to remedy the state of weakness within himself, inside his mind, and in his behavior. And he needs such a stand for practical reasons linked with known policies surrounding him to whose knives he might one day be subjected.

Regarding the Iraqi Army, you know that the Army is, God willing, stronger than it was in last year's battles. The Iranians are trying to carry out small and medium operations to make up for the major operations that stopped a long time ago in order to say: We are here and can take action.

Regarding certain Kurdish agents in northern Iraq and their cooperation with the Iranians, I say that this is not a new development. These people have always been Iranian agents like their fathers and grandfathers. But there are also honorable Kurds. They are carrying arms alongside the Iraqi Army to deal with anyone who cooperates with Iran and the Iranian invaders. As you know, Iraqi mountains can swallow up hundreds of enemy armies.

The situation on the front is sound, strong, and healthy, God willing. Our men are more determined than ever to defend their rights. Time has revealed the truth about two positions: The position of those who are defending a just cause, in other words, the Arabs with Iraq in the forefront clashing with the enemy, and the position of the enemy, whose false claims are being revealed day after day. It has now become obvious to the whole world, not just the Iraqis who are nearby, that Khomeyni has brought a new religion that has nothing to do with Islam. The latest evidence being the remarks made by their president last Friday.

What has changed concerning Egypt after the Amman summit? We believe interaction among Arabs creates power for all Arabs. It gives more strength to the strong and gives new strength to the weak. Since the Arabs have started interacting with one another after Egypt returned to their fold, we hope that Arabs will become stronger in dealing with their causes, rights, problems, and the requirements of the reconstruction needed by their people.

You are fully aware of our relations with Jordan. Relations between Iraq and Jordan are brotherly and intimate. Why? Because there is good will and frankness. So there will be a solution to every problem. And, even if there is a difference of viewpoints on an issue, a solution will be found through this fraternal friendship, frankness, and direct dialogue. This is because there is a common desire to proceed and work together and to strengthen and support one another. On the basis of this concept, each one of us should assume as much as possible his responsibility toward the other and also toward the Arab nation. The relationship with Jordan is excellent in all fields.

Journalists: What about the GCC, Mr President?

The President: In general, and in as much as the Arab can tolerate in light of his circumstances, capabilities, and thoughts, we are satisfied with the general situation in the GCC. Despite faults here and there, we believe there is increasing awareness that Iranians are enemies of the Arab nation and that they will not spare anyone if they can. If, God forbid, the Iranian evil spreads outside Iraq or beyond the resistance capabilities of the Iraqi front, people in the Arabian Gulf states would be among the first to fall.

Are we pleased with everything and are things proceeding according to our thinking? Our thinking is something else. The thinking of your Iraqi brothers which is based on experience is that when an Arab is fighting a foreigner we must stand by our Arab brother. Our sword must fight alongside his sword. We do not merely make statements or attend conferences, but take our Army and fight.

Therefore, it is difficult to judge the Arab situation on the basis of our thinking. What would we have done if someone else had faced the situation we are now in? Of course, we would like the Arabs and their capabilities and stands to be in a better position, but we must also view Arab capabilities and circumstances realistically and in a responsible and fraternal manner. This is my comment in general.

Journalists: We as observer journalists have not been greatly satisfied with the recent stands of the GCC states. We have felt there has been a response to, let us say, corrupt trends or cowardice and opportunism.

The President: Our brothers in the Arabian Gulf tell us they are aware that the Iranians are a danger to everyone. They have reached this conclusion. They realize that they should continue to stand alongside Iraq. However, they believe at the same time that if the Iranians request a meeting which does not affect these principles and which would result in anything that might lead to Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 without manipulations, it would not be [to anyone's] interest to ignore such a possibility. Out of our general analysis, we are not against this.

Journalists: Regarding the relations of these states—collectively or individually—it seems to observers that there is a difference among the stands of the GCC states, depending on their stand toward the war and their

location. The fact is that Iran was not satisfied with aggression against Iraq, but practically expanded its aggression to include nearby Arab countries. Should we not say...

The President: We are in a situation in which a common concept of pan-Arab stands has not yet developed regardless of circumstances because of our close proximity to each other. When I, you, or any Arab, even if he is in Alaska, hears about an aggression against any Arab country, let us say Algeria, by a foreign country, he will stand alongside with Algeria before asking about circumstances. He will ask about circumstances later. Such a stand has not yet been developed.

However, this stand has been developed among you as citizens. It has developed to some extent among some Arab officials. But when the issue enters the framework of state policies it becomes clear that not all states understand the importance of this principle in Arab life.

This is one side of the issue. The other side, which is only natural, is that various interpretations may appear among state policies since we have a number of states. It is like you and your brother journalists having various interpretations and differences on certain issues although you are in one country and can meet any time. This is not bad. The general orientation develops and serves the truth. However, when basic principles are absent, such interpretations may contradict the basis of the basic principles. This would cause severe strategic damage.

As such cases can be seen in the Arab world outside the GCC, we can expect them to be observed among Gulf states because the Gulf states are six and not one. Nevertheless, we are not only required to criticize the wrong and deviated act—which is our duty—but to support the one who cannot see in order to help him see better. We are also required to explain to the one who believes that weak stands may save him from danger that strong stands within a certain context are more likely to save him from a certain danger.

Fear from the tiger in the jungle does not save the prey even if he removes his clothes. However, the strongest possibility for saving his life is to draw his sword and attack the tiger, if warding off the danger is possible only through this means. However, this concept may not always immediately come to the minds of all politicians and men.

Therefore, we are dutybound to explain the other option for those who become weak under pressures, constant dangers, or tempting promises made by some from afar. This is a general line for all of us. That is, for all Arabs.

Journalists: There is talk throughout the world that the U.S. and Western presence in the Arabian Gulf is essentially a danger to Arab sovereignty. Iraq's defense of the Arab homeland's eastern flank is a defense of its own soil and of the Arab nation's sovereignty in the present, past, and future. This presence has raised a specific slogan. However, they did not carry out the slogan which was raised to justify this presence. This presence was not effective in ending the war or containing it and protecting navigation in the Gulf.

Our opinion as observers is that this presence has no effect worth mentioning, especially since UN Security Council Resolution 598 is still frozen. How does Your Excellency view this presence and its relationship with Arab sovereignty in general? Arab sovereignty from the Iraqi viewpoint is safeguarded and embodied by daily heroic fighting. However, those who hesitate and sit back with folded arms see the issue differently.

The President: Before directly answering this question, let us recall the reasons behind the presence of these fleets. First of all, the Western fleets near or in the Arabian Gulf were present before the war. However, they were not in their present posture or size. The Americans came to the Arabian Gulf after the Kuwaitis expressed their desire for the Americans to protect their ships from the Iranians' premeditated attacks. The Americans rejected this request. Then the Kuwaitis asked the Soviets to help. The Soviets agreed to come militarily to the Gulf to escort and protect the Kuwaiti ships. This Kuwaiti request is a legitimate one.

Kuwait's circumstances and capabilities and the absence of other means make this an emergency case. And when no other means are available an emergency is a legitimate case by any definition. After the Soviets agreed to do so, the Americans came to the Gulf and increased their naval presence. The Westerners in general also began to respond to the American presence in the Gulf. The Iranians are responsible for all this. Therefore, an Arab must not forget the origin of these developments and count only on the results. Those who are mainly responsible for the Western presence in the Gulf are the Iranians, those who cooperated with them to continue the aggression, and those who made the Iranians believe they could pressure the Gulf states by attacking them. You know these facts just as we do.

Practically, the U.S. has protected the ships from and to Kuwait. Let us ask: Is this useful to us? The answer is that it is useful to us as Arabs to protect an Arab state which has a known pan-Arab stand from Iranian threats. This is especially true since we cannot replace this force protecting Kuwait or any other Arab state from danger. Is this our choice? It was not our choice, but the choice of circumstances. The Kuwaiti brothers believed that they had no alternative to this. We saw no reason to criticize this stand or behavior. However, are the U.S. and Western policies confined to the declared objective? Is their presence confined only to the objectives they declared when their presence began? We cannot say yes.

However, the picture is incomplete regarding their objectives to draw attention to them. At any rate, this presence has so far had no direct effect on forcing Iran to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. It is clear to us now that this objective has so far not been considered. I mean this naval presence in the Gulf was not aimed at forcing Iran to accept Resolution 598. This is our direct comment on this issue. However, we must not forget that Iran has continued its attacks on ships which did not ask for and did not get U.S. protection.

At the end of the interview, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn expressed his best wishes to Jordan, king and people.

'Aziz Interviewed on Syria, Other Issues

JN261947 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1748 GMT 26 Jan 88

["Text" of interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Nabil Dawrwish in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Darwish] Mr Minister Tariq 'Aziz, how do you assess the results of the Arab foreign ministers extraordinary session?

['Aziz] The meeting was necessary to study the situation in the occupied territory following the Palestinian Arab people's valiant uprising which has been continuing for several weeks. The Arab states had to assess the situation there correctly and to adopt a suitable plan to support the uprising and to bolster Arab political efforts to solve the Palestinian question.

I can say the meeting achieved many of its tasks. It considered the uprising to be a great historic event in the history of the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and an expression of their rejection of an occupation that has lasted for more than 20 years.

The conferees decided to extend material and moral assistance to the uprising so that it will continue.

On the political level, the Arab League Council's extraordinary session adopted an important decision to form an Arab ministerial committee to follow up the political effort. Not since the Fes summit and not until this meeting has any Arab group decided to set up a responsible ministerial committee to assist the PLO in its political effort to achieve the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. That is an important development in itself.

The committee, supported by all the Arab states, must carry out intensive political activity in the international community in general and at the Security Council in particular. It must initiate a discussion and a debate of the Palestinian question to bring about a comprehensive and just solution to that issue.

[Darwish] However, Mr Minister, you said during the meetings that we must not be content with generalities. First, let us talk a little about the mechanism of implementing these resolutions. Second, you have experience with Arab committees. Do you still believe in the usefulness of the seven-member committee which also met yesterday? Will it contribute toward ending the conflict?

['Aziz] If what is meant is the seven-member committee on following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war, I can say after 4 years experience that it is one of the most successful Arab formulas to express joint Arab action and to achieve political and diplomatic goals in harmony with the resolutions of Arab meetings, both on the Arab League Council level and on the summit level.

The seven-member committee has put out a great deal of effort. I can say that Resolution 598—a unique resolution in the history of the United Nations—is one of the results of the seven-member committee's efforts.

Ever since the resolution was adopted we have been holding meetings to discuss it while we were there. Now that we are here in Tunis we will continue the meetings to follow up developments and to draw up additional plans. Such plans are being implemented satisfactorily.

[Darwish] You said yesterday the Palestinian uprising occurred at the right historic moment. What exactly did you mean?

['Aziz] I said it is a historic moment, an event that acquires a historic dimension. The Arab nation and the Palestinian leaders must approach the uprising on that basis.

After 20 years of Israeli occupation, and following assessments and feelings on a large scale that indicate a sense of frustration or despair on the possibility of the Palestinian people regaining their rights, the uprising affirms important facts; namely, that the Palestinian people are a living and free people who reject occupation and who demand their freedom. They demand their right to self-determination.

As I said at the meeting, their cause is being discussed in every house in the world. Every house that has a television set sees dramatically the Palestinian cause. They see that the people are struggling for their freedom and for their right to self-determination. They see the occupier trying to hit this people brutally, departing from and disregarding the truth and disavowing the prevailing values in our modern times: Respect for the freedoms of peoples and respect for their right to self-determination.

That is a great historic development. As I have said, the Arab nation, and the Palestinian leadership in particular, must seize this historic moment to push forward the Palestinian cause toward its natural conclusion; namely the Palestinian people winning their right to self-determination.

[Darwish] Cairo has been present at all the recent Arab meetings. It was also present at this meeting [the Arab foreign ministers meeting] in one way or the other. It was present at this meeting through the resumption of Tunisian-Egyptian relations. It was also present through the Syrian and Libyan requests to the Arab foreign ministers to pressure or to ask Egypt to sever its relations with Israel in light of the uprising. Why was this resolution rejected with a majority of 14 votes?

['Aziz] First of all, we must not allow Arab meetings to become a forum for interference in the domestic affairs of others. This is a point of principle which we must respect. Also, when we request something from an Arab brother, whether this request is justified or not, we must begin by holding a dialogue with this brother and not put this request in the form of an Arab League resolution or outline it in the media in an embarrassing manner. We approached this proposal on the basis of these two points. We all know that all the parties concerned, including the Arab parties, must pressure Israel with all available means.

Egypt is part of the concerned parties. Egypt is aware of the importance of the uprising and of its responsibilities. It goes without saying that Egypt will adopt the measures it deems to be appropriate in this respect. We do not have the right to tell it: Do this or do not do that. We reject such a course of action. Egypt is an important Arab country. It certainly has a role to play. We always take it into consideration when we tackle the Arab situation.

[Darwish] Let us now move to the issue of the atmosphere which prevails between Damascus and Baghdad. There has been a period of calm. This has made the Arab citizen optimistic with respect to ending the Syrian-Iraqi dispute. However, media campaigns resumed. Some sources link the resumption of the media campaigns to the Iraqis' resumption of their raids on Iranian territory and that this has not given the Syrian efforts the opportunity to come to fruition. Is this true? What is the real state of affairs?

['Aziz] This talk is not true. A new atmosphere emerged at the Amman summit. This new atmosphere is based on the summit resolutions. The summit was not merely a club or a meeting among leaders. It was a meeting in which resolutions were adopted, and Arab countries are now dutybound to implement these resolutions. We were waiting for the Syrian Government to reaffirm its abidance by the Amman summit resolutions dealing with the Iranian aggression against the Arabs and the Iranian aggression against Gulf countries. Frankly speaking, I say we waited for such a development but nothing new took place. Weeks after the convocation of the summit, we started hearing about a so-called Syrian mediation.

First of all, such a mediation was not discussed at the Amman summit. It was rejected. President Saddam Husayn said clearly to the Syrian president, in the presence of a large number of Arab leaders, that Syrian mediation is rejected—for reasons explained at the meeting.

We hear about Syrian mediation in the war, or Syrian mediation between Iran and the Gulf states. No one has asked Syria to carry out such a mediation. Such mediation is not wanted. This is because Syria is an Arab country. It must proclaim its abidance by the Amman summit resolutions and not become a mediator at a time that a formula for the settlement of the Iraq-Iran war exists, represented in the UN Security Council Resolution 598. What is required is the implementation of this resolution and not the invention of roles which were not approved by the Arab summit, which are not required from the Arab countries, and which are not in line with the international efforts underway in the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 598.

We consider this behavior a departure from the Amman resolutions and a return to the atmosphere which preceded the Amman summit. This atmosphere was detrimental and negative. It was strongly criticized at the summit and was considered very detrimental. Why has this atmosphere returned?

Nothing has happend to normalize bilateral relations. Relations between the two countries cannot be normalized if the Syrian leadership does not abide by the Amman summit resolutions. I believe this is clear and known by all Arab brothers before and during the Amman summit because this issue was discussed frankly, clearly, and directly.

Syria must affirm its commitment to the Amman summit resolutions and translate this commitment into clear political behavior and expression.

[Darwish] When President Saddam Husayn said at the Amman summit that he rejects a Syrian mediation because Syria is an Arab country—certainly there are other reasons. This means that President Hafiz al-Asad presented a suggestion or a proposal for mediation. Did President al-Asad present a detailed proposal for mediation?

['Aziz] I have no information about a detailed offer. The Syrians talk about a role to this effect. We frankly told them that the Syrian role is upside down. Syria must play its role as an Arab country, which means it should abide by the Arab stand. It should not turn into a mediator as if it were a European country or an assistant to the UN secretary general. Syria is an Arab country. It should act like one.

With regard to what has been said about Syria's attempts to prevent Iran from embarking on an offensive and that Iraq launched raids, first of all the war has not stopped. Iraq raids Iranian interests unceasingly. A 2-day or 1-week halt might come about because of weather conditions. It might be for reasons that are not related to politics. Iran has not stopped the war. Iran has continued its aggressions. Iran has not stopped its offensive on Iraqi

territory. The offensives are continuous and you listen daily to the Iranian communiques. These statements are groundless. They are allegations and baseless stories.

[Darwish] The war has continued for months. It will enter its 8th year soon. The Iraqis fight each day. The war is continuous. How do you view the future? Is there an end to this war? How do you assess the domestic Iranian situation? You should have a view on this.

['Aziz] The war should end. When the aggrieved party is determined to fight bravely, efficiently, and capably, the aggressor will stop its aggression one day. No country, even the backward and bigoted Iran, can continue aggression if it finds in its face a brave and capable resistance. This is reality. Had the Iranian regime not been arrogant, backward, fanatic, and aggressive, it would have discovered this fact many years ago and stopped the war. The Iranian regime does not want to admit this reality. It is like the person who has cancer and does not want to admit it. However, cancer will kill him although he does not admit he is sick.

Iran's insistence on the war will result in the destruction of Iran itself. This is what the present Iranian leadership is doing in reality by taking this impossible option. We are confident of the future because we have strong determination to defend our country and we have the ability to do so. We have proven this ability throughout the past 7 and 1/2 years. Our capabilities in confronting Iranian aggression are now greater than in the past. I mean our military capabilities as well as our capabilities in other fields. This is at a time when Iranian capabilities are becoming less and the situation inside Iran is deteriorating.

Therefore, the Iranian regime should understand this, abandon its arrogance, and accept the honorable and just peaceful settlement embodied in Resolution 598.

I do not have to talk about the situation in Iran. The entire world says the situation in Iran is deteriorating and has no future. The entire world talks about the coming stage in Iran. This is evidence the world has no confidence in the continuation of the present situation as long as the Iranians insist on a blind course which cannot see the facts or deal with the facts of the modern age.

Now there is a strong international tendency and a tendency within the Security Council to impose sanctions on the Iranian regime because it did not comply with Resolution 598. We are continuing our political and diplomatic efforts to implement the resolution. When Iran persists in continuing the war and persists in its policy of aggression against Iraq and against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and indeed against the Arab nation and the world as a whole, the international community must take a firm stand toward that aberrant regime that has flouted international law, that aggressor regime. I believe the international community must shoulder its responsibility in that regard.

[Darwish] With regard to that matter you have shown an almost silent displeasure with the Soviet stand on the issue of sanctions. How how do you now assess the Soviet stand? Do you believe it is leaning toward imposing sanctions? What is your assessment of the Chinese stand, particularly as the United States is daily asserting that the supply of Chinese arms to Iran is still continuing?

['Aziz] At this stage I do not want to comment on the stand of any state. I will be diplomatic in that regard. However, I say that the permanent member states of the Security Council which in 1987 took the initiative in drawing up the basic elements of Resolution 598—the initiative was then taken up by all the Security Council members and the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 598—are required to prove their credibility. They pledged to end the war in accordance with the bases of Resolution 598. It is their responsibility to continue the efforts that are compatible with the resolution.

Resolution 598 states: The Security Council must adopt subsequent measures to guarantee compliance with the resolution. That is what Article 10 of the resolution states.

[Darwish] However, everyone is justifying their stand and saying. [sentence as heard] Some of those who refuse or do not now want to apply sanctions say that even if sanctions were applied arms will continue to flow to Iran.

['Aziz] No one is saying a resolution on sanctions will absolutely end the possibility of the flow of arms to Iran. However, a resolution on sanctions is an ethical commitment which the Security Council must undertake. The Security Council adopted a resolution which according to the UN Charter is binding. Iran has not complied with the resolution. Therefore, the Security Council must take some measure to punish the non-complying party. What is that measure? They decided that the measure should be an embargo on arms to Iran. Well, let them adopt such a resolution and let us see whether it will be effective or not.

In my view if the present members of the Security Council abide by the resolution they adopt, then the resolution will be effective. At present the members of the Security Council include many arms-producing states that are active in the arms market. If these states which themselves adopted the resolution were to comply with that resolution, then such a resolution would in practice be effective.

[Darwish] The Iraq-Iran conflict was among the important regional topics discussed at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. The Soviets and the Americans have briefed you on what happened. Did the issue really enjoy attention commensurate with its importance at the summit?

['Aziz] Yes, the Iraq-Iran war was among the important topics on the summit agenda. It is an important international event bound to impose itself on any international meeting on that level.

[Darwish] However, did what take place at the summit pave the way for better steps at the Security Council and other international organizations? Was the stand taken an advanced stand? Did the two giants agree?

['Aziz] The summit did not issue a statement on that issue defining matters on which the two parties agreed. That is well known. However, shortly after the summit the five permanent members of the Security Council began to discuss the resolution on sanctions.

[Darwish] Thank you, Mr Minister.

['Aziz] You are welcome.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,000

JN261750 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Communique No 3,000 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of the dear homeland and the people's achievements, Iraq's victorious forces have continued their heroic struggle against the evil clique ruling in Tehran. Our forces renewed their pledge to the leader and the nation to achieve a decisive victory, with God's help. The results of our forces' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave hawks continued to stalk enemy maritime targets like prey. They destroyed their first target at noon yesterday. Then, at 0110 today [2210 GMT on 25 January], our hawks launched a destructive raid on a second maritime target near the Iranian coast. After scoring an accurate and effective blow, our hawks returned with their planes safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Units from our brave formations in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked groups of scoundrels. Other units in the same sector directed their fire at enemy positions opposite them, vehicles, and weapon emplacements. Our forces killed 67 Iranians; destroyed 8 vehicles of various types, 1 armored personnel carrier, 7 infantry positions, and 1 106-mm gun; and blew up 13 ammunition dumps.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—three machinegun emplacements, four infantry positions, two 60-mm mortars, and a medium machinegun were destroyed.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, eight scoundrels were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, three enemy personnel were killed. One shovel, two infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed. One ammunition dump was blown up.

6. In the IV Army corps sector east of Maysan, two observation posts and one infantry position were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

7. One enemy soldier was killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed or wounded.

9. In the VII Army Corps sector, one scoundrel was killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN270723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0713 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Iraqi planes have dealt an effective and accurate blow to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and returned safely to base.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, an Iraqi military spokesman said the Iraqi planes hit the target at 0135 today [2235 GMT on 26 January]. The spokesman added that the Iraqi Air Force will continue to destroy the Iranian regime's economic resources which help it to continue its war and aggression against Iraq.

'Maritime Target' Destroyed

JN271041 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi hawks destroyed a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1007 [0707 GMT] today.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA a short while ago that the Iraqi hawks dealt an affective and accurate blow to the target and returned with their planes safely to base. The spokesman said that the strong and triumphant Iraq will continue to act in a way achieving the principles of right and peace and that its heroic Air Force embodies the Iraqi people's will and ability to deter the aggressors.

Missile Battery 'Destroyed'

JN271215 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1202 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Iraqi Air Force planes destroyed an Iranian surface-to-air missile battery in the southern operations sector at 1130 [0830 GMT] today.

The Iraqi military spokesman told INA a short while ago that all our planes had returned safely to base after carrying out their task. The spokesman added that this raid is within the framework of continuing to destroy the Iranian regime's resources and to deprive the tyrant clique of their pillars of aggression.

221 Iranians Killed in North

JN271456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1418 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces killed 221 Iranians in the northern sector of the front today. They also destroyed 13 vehicles of various types and 2 armored personnel carriers and blew up 25 ammunition dumps.

The military spokesman informed INA this afternoon that one rocket launcher, two 106-mm guns, seven machineguns, and one shovel were also destroyed in the northern sector.

The Iraqi units in the I Special Army Corps central sector captured two Iranians, killed four others, including one officer, and seized six rifles.

One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded and one ammunition dump was destroyed on the Iranian side in the VII Army Corps sector. One Iranian was killed and one enemy machinegun and one mortar were destroyed in the east of Al-Basrah sector, the southern sector.

Shamir Asks 'Private Meeting' With Mubarak

TA270816 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently relayed a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, proposing a private meeting without preconditions. President Mubarak replied that such a meeting will be feasible only if it includes a discussion on the possibility of convening an international peace conference. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

The exchange of messages between the Egyptian president's office and that of the prime minister in Jerusalem resulting from the new situation in the territories sometimes resembles a feud. In reaction to President Mubarak's repeated requests to adopt the international conference plan in view of the riots and disturbances, Prime Minister Shamir suggested a private meeting with the Egyptian president, in the presence of King Husayn if possible. The prime minister prefers that the meeting be announced publicly, with the emphasis on the absence of preconditions. The proposal was relayed to Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, about 10 days ago.

The reply from President Mubarak's office was: We are ready to meet, if you announce your willingness to discuss an international conference. To support his position, Mubarak sent the prime minister a message at the beginning of this week reiterating his stand that there is no substitute for the conference idea.

Meanwhile, President Mubarak is gathering international support for his new political initiative. To counterbalance this, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein left for Washington to present the prime minister's plan for interim arrangements, such as autonomy, and for a simultaneous international effort to rehabilitate the refugee camps.

And in the midst of all this, another development: Israel has allowed the Turkish authorities to send food and other basic items to the refugee camps. The permit was issued after similar requests by Egypt, Romania, Greece, and numerous international organizations were turned down. Jerusalem made this decision in view of the improvement in its relations with Turkey and the Turkish Muslim population's sensitivity to the events in the territories. It was made clear to the authorities in Ankara that there is no shortage of food in the territories. Nevertheless, after a detailed request which included dates and quantities had been submitted, Jerusalem decided to respond favorably.

Peres 'Fed Up' With Shamir Peace Rejections

TA262027 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren—live in the studio]

[Text] There is no doubt that the events in the territories and the political stalemate have increased friction between the prime minister and the vice prime minister to all-time high levels and, some would say, to the verge of an explosion.

Shim'on Peres has made up his mind, so say his associates this evening, to take very strenuous political action in order to further the peace process, even at the cost of a head-on confrontation with Yitzhaq Shamir.

I am totally fed up with the prime minister's rejection of any political move, Peres told his associates. This is particularly so in view of the serious events in the territories. All that we have accomplished through our supreme efforts concerning the peace process, Peres says, has been totally destroyed. We can no longer sit idly by.

In the near future, Shim'on Peres intends to take action on several levels: 1) strengthening relations with Egypt in all possible ways; 2) soothing Jordan in the wake of the events in the territories and enhancing its commitment toward the understandings reached with King Husayn; and 3) persuading the United States that it must bring influence to bear on the prime minister to change his position. Peres counts on senior officials in the U.S. State Department who have been pressing for a resumption of the political process, in contrast with Secretary Shultz who is apprehensive about a confrontation with Yitzhaq Shamir.

Officials in the prime minister's office this evening rejected Shim'on Peres' remarks about a political stalemate. To strengthen their case, the spokesmen, on behalf of the prime minister, pointed to the meeting expected to take place this evening between the Cabinet secretary and the U.S. secretary of state being as a continuation of the dialogue with the United States.

Sources in Shamir's office disclosed this evening that the prime minister is looking into the possibility of amending the original autonomy plan to adjust it to the new situation. The prime minister may submit this plan to the U.S. Administration when he visits the United States in March.

Al-Quds Jamming Called 'Political Decision'

TA271022 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 88 p 5

[Report on an interview with Edmond Sehayek, director of the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language programs, by Ronit Antler; date and place not given]

[Text] Broadcasting Authority Director General Uri Porat has instructed his secretary to notify Edmond Sehayek, the director of Israel Radio's Arabic department, that he is barred from giving interviews to IDF Radio and to Educational Television's Erev Hadash program, due to his remarks on jamming the transmissions of the Jibril radio station emanating from Syria.

Sehayek has announced that he intends to give interviews to whomever he pleases: "I am not authorized to jam transmissions and the radio is not geared to jam transmissions," he said, adding that his remarks were taken out of context.

[Antler] What did you actually say?

[Sehayek] The correspondent asked me whether Jibril's station in Syria presents competition to our Arabic broadcasts and I said it does not. Anyone who listens to us will continue doing so, because we are more reliable. The station is no competition for us because it broadcasts only inciting messages. I added that we cannot jam this station's broadcasts because a powerful transmitter is needed for that purpose.

[Antler] Do you believe the station is hurting Israel?

[Sehayek] Yes, it has a wide audience.

[Antler] Then you are in favor of jamming their transmissions?

[Sehayek] I would not invest efforts and resources in this at the moment, but I think that the authorities should treat the matter seriously. I am familiar with the public the Jibril station targets and I believe that the atmosphere nowadays is ripe for this station. Nevertheless, I prefer to think that the listeners are sufficiently intelligent to understand the goal of the station from Syria and to treat it with reservations.

[Antler] Do you not think that jamming transmissions is a matter for politicians rather than for a radio director?

[Sehayek] I agree with you that as Arabic radio director I do not jam, cannot jam, and do not have the instruments to jam. I am not in charge of jamming. I leave that to policymakers.

Deportation of Five Palestinians Postponed

TA270922 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Dani Sade, and Mikhal Politi]

[Text] For the time being, Israel has decided to put off deporting the five Palestinians faced with expulsion orders.

The decision was made following a round of discussions between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Foreign Ministry's recommendation that Israel make efforts to stem the continued deterioration in its image against the backdrop of events in the territories further contributed to consolidating the forum's decision to postpone the execution of the expulsion orders.

Among the considerations in postponing the deportations was the fear that the expulsions might set off a new wave of disturbances in the territories, just as relative calm has been achieved. A senior IDF source said yesterday: "The latest wave of disturbances in the territories came in the wake of the previous expulsions. We cannot ignore this."

Another important reason for the decision was U.S. pressure against carrying out the expulsions. This has also prevented the deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad, the director of the Institute for Nonviolent Studies, whose expulsion the prime minister had already decided on in principle.

UNRWA Protests Deportation of Gaza Worker

TA271527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] UNRWA has protested to the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry against the intention to expel an UNRWA worker, Khalil al-Quqa, a resident of the Gaza Strip. It is said in the protest that Al-Quqa is a teacher and has never been convicted of security offenses. It was further said that the expulsion runs counter to the UN Charter and the Geneva pact.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the IDF's arguments for the deportation of Khalil al-Quqa it was said he is a teacher and an imam and that in his sermons in the mosque he has called for the adoption of radical acts against Israeli authorities.

Further on Continuing Incidents in Gaza Strip

300 Hospitalized From Beatings

TA270541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] About 300 Gaza residents have been hospitalized due to beatings since the IDF initiated its new policy of physically confronting demonstrators. A military source told the Voice of Israel this number does not include those who received treatment at UNRWA clinics.

News Agency Ordered Closed

TA261825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The IDF commanding officer in Gaza has closed the news agency [not further identified] and the Institute for Journalism Research directed by journalist Hasan al-Wahidi for 1 year. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that hostile activities were conducted from the offices ordered closed and its workers maintained contacts with the PLO. The agency supplied news services to foreign newspapers and represented AL-FAJR and AL-'AWDAH in the Gaza Strip.

Curfew on Al-Jalazun

TA261515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed this afternoon on the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah following a large riot. Security sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that two women had been throwing bricks at security troops and were slightly wounded when the latter proceeded to disperse the rioters. One of them was wounded by rubber bullets and the other was beaten by soldiers.

Trials Reach 'Standstill'

TA270655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Curfews remain in force today in several parts of the territories. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew imposed yesterday on the Al-Jalazun refugee camp following a riot remains in force this morning. The village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta has been under curfew over 1 week and the village of Si'ir in the Hebron District remains under blockade.

In the Gaza Strip, a curfew has been imposed on two-thirds of the Jabalyah refugee camp following disturbances. Most of the workers from the refugee camps nevertheless left for work in Israel.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that so far about 550 charges have been laid in the Gaza Military Court against persons suspected of participating in riots.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 January in a report on pages 1 and 2 on the situation in the territories adds that "the trials of Gaza Strip residents jailed during recent disturbances ground to a standstill here yesterday, as scores of defendants who had previously signed confessions concerning riot-related offences pleaded not guilty and demanded full hearings of their cases."]

Shops Forced Open 27 Jan

TA271523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] There were attempts to render commercial life idle in Janin and Ramallah this morning, but the security forces opened the shops with force. Commercial life proceeded normally in the other Judaea and Samaria towns.

The curfew on the Al-Jalazun refugee camp was lifted. A blockade is continuing in the village of Si'ir and detentions were carried out there.

PLO Chooses Local Leaders for 'Dialogue'

TA271408 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The PLO has agreed on 13 public figures from the territories to begin negotiations with Israel aimed at restoring calm. The proposal was made by Knesset Member 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah to East Jerusalem Palestinians. Darawshah's proposal was transmitted to PLO leaders. The organization sent back a list of 13 public figures and a 14-point memorandum as the basis for Palestinian demands in a dialogue and conditions for a halt to the disturbances.

Rabin Denies Beatings Used as 'Punishment'

TA261332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] We have just received a report from our correspondent in the Knesset Hayim Zissowitz on Defense Minister Rabin's appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Defense Minister Rabin says there is no policy of using beatings as punishment in the territories. On the contrary, there are serious restrictions on the use of force. As Rabin was leaving the meeting hall, our correspondent asked him, among other things, for his reaction to the evidence of deviant activities in Gaza cited in the report compiled by Knesset Members Zucker and Sarid.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I am not prepared to look at a report that was not checked with the elements in the area, where only one side was heard. I am not prepared to regard such a report as one which I must relate to in any way.

[Zissowitz] According to data you possess, is such activity going on in the area?

[Rabin] I have said that the policy is simple. During the first stage of the incidents, we faced a large wave of violence. During that first stage, before we had time to get properly prepared to deal with the unrest, there were many cases in which soldiers were humiliated on the one hand and in which soldiers took action, including the use of fire, on the other.

As the second stage evolved, we made preparations to deal with the situation with a minimum of fire, by having soldiers or border policeman use fire only in self-defense, in fact. We found it necessary to adopt police measures. What are police measures? The use of helmets, tear gas, rubber bullets, and clubs. This is what we did, primarily using conventional means.

The use of force, including beatings, was ordered against those who engage in violence at the time when they are engaging in violence: a violent demonstration; a burning tire that serves as a roadblock, with people also throwing

stones; curfew violators who violently oppose their detention; encountering resistance when coming to a suspect's home to arrest him.

Force is used in these cases. This is the policy. There were exceptions and we are dealing with them. I am not saying there were no deviations. Deviations can occur when the activity of thousands of soldiers is involved. Let us not forget, however, that had there been no violent activity it would not have been necessary to maintain an IDF presence there at all.

[Zissowitz] Force is being used as a punishment beyond the dispersal of demonstrations. Is there such a policy?

[Rabin] There is no formal policy of beating as a form of punishment. The opposite is true. There are standing orders against violent activity, against acting with force, including beatings, and this also applies to what is called hot pursuit [last two words in English]. Force is used if a person is pursued into his house and he offers forceful resistance. Force is not used if he turns himself in. [end recording]

Shomron Interviewed on Territories Situation

TA222036 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Studio interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, good evening to you. The defense minister and senior officers this week spoke of a policy of force, firmness, blows, beatings. Do you not feel this new policy is applied with too much zeal, with too much ease by soldiers in the area itself?

[Shomron] First, I would not like to address myself to quotes from people some of whom are unknown to me. With your permission, I would like to start with two points.

First, the situation in the territories is much calmer. There are few demonstrations and little violence. Some of the refugee camps have already been reopened.

Second, I would like to say the IDF does not only use force in the territories. It is also responsible for life there. The IDF distributes food and water. It is responsible for transportation, commerce, and for making it possible for people to leave for work. So, when violent riots take place the IDF has to disperse them, with force naturally.

As for your question about blows, beatings: The soldiers have very clear instructions. They disperse every violent demonstration with force and at once. There is a clear limit, though: Restraint is exercised from the moment the demonstration is dispersed. One must not harm people or property after the demonstration is dispersed. Force has to be and is used to disperse the demonstration, but from the moment the demonstration is dispersed, restraint prevails. As I have already said, we have responsibility not only to disperse demonstrations, but also to take care of life there as well.

[Shlonsky] Officers in the area, and I am out there quite a bit, are worried that you may have given perhaps too free a rein to the soldiers on the issue of blows, that beating is carried out not only while demonstrations are being dispersed, but also against those who violate a curfew, for example. In the area one clearly hears talk of deviation from rules.

[Shomron] Look, we carry out various types of activities at the same time. We disperse demonstrations by force, when it is necessary to disperse demonstrators. We impose curfews and carry out deportations. Incidentally, we came under fire for each of these activities. To my great regret, it is impossible to eliminate this violence through a talk over a cup of coffee and by using persuasion. There is no choice but to disperse violent demonstrations by force.

[Shlonsky] I am talking about irregular acts in the area, though. Do they reach you at all?

[Shomron] When there is such an act we treat it so, but these acts are exceptional, indeed. Let me tell you with full sincerity: To the best of my knowledge no soldier volunteered to come and use force against the violence of civilians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. They are all our messengers, the messengers of you, me, and each of the spectators. And, in my opinion, they carry out their hard and very unpleasant work with credibility and maturity. They understand things precisely and have clear instructions. They know the limits. Now any time many soldiers are active in a large area, under definitely uneasy mental pressures, there are also exceptions. Each exception is treated as such, of course.

[Shlonsky] Are you indeed not troubled by what is happening to the soldiers from the point of view of the mental and psychological pressures—how they will emerge from this? How they will emerge from service in the IDF? What kind of citizens will they be in the wake of this service in the territories, the hard period they are going through?

[Shomron] I talk with the soldiers when I visit the territories. In my opinion, and this may perhaps sound surprising, these soldiers, some of whom are 18-year-old kids, understand the situation precisely. I definitely think that this situation is very unpleasant for them. Still, they understand it and understand their mission. In my opinion, part of the media does not treat them with the proper decency in view of the tasks they carry out. Still, in my opinion, they understand. We, commanders in general, talk with them. I do not think they will be left with deep or bad scars. I hope the situation will not last very long.

[Shlonsky] In conclusion, let us move to another issue. This week we witnessed another attempt by terrorists to infiltrate into northern Israel, an attempt that was foiled. Does this effort you invest in the territories not disrupt the degree of your alert against terror activity in northern Israel, for instance?

[Shomron] As you saw and know, we use all measures and force against terror actions. In the north it was a paratroop unit that acted this time, quickly, firmly, and as necessary, quickly liquidating the terrorists before they could cause any damage. I would like to seize this opportunity of talking about the subject to wish full recovery to soldier Yonatan Baranes, who was wounded in this operation and who is still in critical condition.

[Shlonsky] My question concerned the effort in the territories. Does it disrupt matters from the point of view of alert?

[Shomron] Look, the IDF will invest all power that is necessary for the antiterror war. Likewise, the IDF will invest as much force as necessary to obtain quiet and order in the territories.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, thank you.

[Shomron] Thank you.

Nazareth Council Backs Territories Residents

TA221930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Members of Nazareth City Council today observed a minute silence for Palestinians killed during the recent disturbances in the territories. The minute silence came at the beginning of a special meeting to express solidarity with residents of the territories. At the meeting Nazareth Council decided to give its full backing to a solidarity demonstration planned to take place tomorrow in the city.

'Public Figures' Meet With Palestinians

TA231518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Several leaders of the Palestinian public met with Israeli public figures at Kibbutz Shoval in the Negev to discuss the situation in the territories as well as ways of reaching a political settlement. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the Palestinians included Sari Nusaybah, Hanna Sinyurah, and Fayiz Abu Rahmah; MAPAM Secretary Knesset Member [MK] El'azar Granot, the Alignment's Hayim Tzadoq and MK Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, and journalist Ze'ev Schiff were among the Israelis included in the talks.

'Figures' Interviewed on Talks With Genscher

JN242048 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Report by Qaysar Kabaha]

[Text] Dozens of newsmen and television crews of national and international media were awaiting the arrival of FRG Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem. Seven figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip were there to see Genscher out of 18 invited to the meeting.

They were Basil Kan'an, a Nabulus businessman; Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, former Hebron Mayor; Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR newspaper editor; Dr Sari Nusaybah; Rashad al-Shawwa, former Gaza mayor; advocate Fayiz Abu Rahmah of Gaza; and Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor. The meeting began at approximately 1500 and ended at approximately 1700.

After the meeting concluded, newsmen tried to speak to Genscher but he would give no details, explaining he would hold a news conference this evening at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, shortly before his brief visit to the country ends. I asked former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa the aim of the meeting with Genscher.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shawwa] The aim of the meeting was to review current occupied land developments and to ask the EC to take a firm stand with Israel to help us end occupation and reach an overall solution to the Palestinian cause.

[Kabaha] What were the most important issues you raised with the FRG foreign minister?

[Al-Shawwa] Naturally, the subject of occupation came up first. We are unanimously demanding an end to Israeli occupation. He asked how we thought this could be best approached. We suggested an international conference with the attendance of all parties concerned, plus the five major powers. If the conference is convened it will provide an opportunity to put pressure on Israel.

[Kabaha] What were the most important things the FRG foreign minister said?

[Al-Shawwa] That the FRG and the EC support the proposed international conference and will make an effort on behalf of covening it.

[Kabaha] Did either of the two sides get to discuss the incidents in the territories?

[Al-Shawwa] Yes, of course we did. For our part we explained the situation. We explained what has been happening in the territories. The violence and beatings were [word indistinct] and now we see hands and legs

being broken. We explained all of this and requested international protection. We said the United Nations must find a way to provide international protection.

[Kabaha] And what did he say to the last point?

[Al-Shawwa] He gave no opinion nor did he commit himself in any way. However, he promised to pass all of our views to the EC.

[Kabaha] How do you evaluate the FRG's role in the Mideast peace process?

[Al-Shawwa] I think the FRG is a very important element in the EC, which as a whole can pressure the United States. If they have a good mind to help, they can do a lot. [end recording]

I asked Hanna Sinyurah if the FRG foreign minister divulged anything about his meetings with Mideast and Israeli leaders.

[Begin recording] [Sinyurah] He emphasized that in all the places he visited, including Israel, he said the same thing: His country adheres to the Venice Declaration and an international conference.

[Kabaha] Do you think recent, rather frequent meetings between Western leaders and quite a few West Bank and Gaza Strip figures will produce anything?

[Sinyurah] We now need international moves. The Soviet Union has launched an initiative requesting the UN Security Council to call an international conference. We told Genscher we are agreeable to the Soviet proposal, which we would like to see acted upon as soon as possible. [end recording]

AL-SHA'B Calls for International Talks

TA191550 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
18 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Films of the Stone and Films of Negotiations"]

[Text] For the first time since the beginning of the events in the occupied territories about 6 weeks ago, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres admitted the day before yesterday that Israel is facing a severe dilemma. This dilemma is on both a domestic and international level because of the policy that Israel is pursuing in the occupied territories. This policy has created a widespread controversy among Israeli decisionmakers, and it is escalating daily in view of the statements being made by a number of Israeli officials. The most recent of these statements was the one by Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, in which he called for evacuation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres, who more than anyone else is aware of the effect of the international isolation experienced by Israel these days, came close to the truth without realizing when he admitted that all the concepts that Israel is using to deal with the current situation are bankrupt. This should induce Peres and other Israeli leaders to give up the concepts on which they base their policies.

During his talk on how to emerge from the dilemma that Israel is facing, Peres put forward three proposals: Israel can do nothing; it can enter into negotiations with Jordan in the hope of stopping the incidents; or it can enter into negotiations while the incidents continue. [sentence as published]

If political observers see in Peres' remarks a change in the tone with which he was speaking in the first days of the events and in which he rejected any talk about "negotiations" except after the termination of clashes, this change should be aimed at agreement on the convocation of an international peace conference on the basis of international legitimacy. Without the convocation of this conference, according to international specifications, the region will continue to be far removed from peace and will remain an abyss of tension and crisis that will affect international security and peace.

AL-FAJR Urges Elections in Territories

TA201713 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
17 Jan 88 p 5

[Editorial: "If You Want Local Leaders, Let Us Have Free Elections"]

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared last week that he was ready to talk to local Palestinian leadership, if it existed.

We do not have to remind Rabin that in 1976, Palestinians elected, and we stress elected, under Israeli supervision, a local leadership in the form of city mayors. But was it not Israel which dismissed these mayors from their offices and expelled some of them simply because they assumed a leadership role in the occupied areas? Is it not Israel which opposes the holding of new mayoral elections to allow the people to elect their own representatives?

And what about the National Guidance Committee set up by local Palestinian leaders in the late 1970s? Was it not Israel which cracked down hard on members in this committee, imprisoning some of them and expelling others to crush it?

What about the arrest, administrative detention for months, and expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians who dared to speak out for their people's legitimate rights and assumed role as local leaders? There is no need to remind

Israel of all these occasions on which it aborted the creation of a viable local Palestinian leadership which it now cries out for. However, Rabin is certainly not serious in his call.

Rabin is making this call in order to save face and as a method of stalling for time in light of the growing and widespread discontent with his government's occupation policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He and other Israeli leaders are lost in the confusion caused by the protests and the international criticism. They are scrambling for answers which in the end are not convincing.

Rabin and his superiors have no one to blame but themselves for the absence of local Palestinian leadership. Ironically, when Rabin was talking about Palestinians in the occupied areas taking iniatiative and attending to their future by selecting a leadership from among them, his armed forces were busy loading four Palestinians in a helicopter to take them into exile in Lebanon. These four, out of nine slated for expulsion, were thrown out of the country because, according to Israelis, they are considered inciters. Many others are held in administrative detention for the same reason.

Rabin cannot fool anyone with such a call. We all know that Israel is not interested in real and authentic Palestinian leadership of a caliber that can negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people. Israel only wants a token leadership like that it installed in certain local municipalities and who have no popular base whatsoever so it can dictate to them unacceptable Israeli terms for a settlement. Israel still looks to Jordan to supply the negotiating team on behalf of the Palestians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It refuses to acknowledge that such an expectation is not going to succeed because neither Jordan nor its supporters here can speak on behalf of the masses.

Israel needs to wake up to this reality if it is sincere in resolving the Palestinian question in a fair way. Let the people here elect their local representatives in free and open municipal elections. Yet Israel knows that the people here would vote for one thing: the PLO as their representative in any future peace talks which should be conducted through an international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. This is exactly what Israel does not want to happen and this is why it keeps offering alternative short-term solutions.

Shamir Discusses Upcoming U.S. Visit, Talks

TA261636 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Gid'on Reicher—live in the studio]

[Text] [Reicher] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has invited Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for a visit to the White House in Washington. We are hosting the prime minister in our Jerusalem studio. Shalom to you, Mr Shamir.

[Shamir] Shalom to you.

[Reicher] You will be leaving for the United States in March. You will go to the White House and, as is usually the case on such occasions, you will initially hold ceremonial talks. The Israeli people would like to know what our prime minister intends to tell the U.S. President. We have heard about the initiatives of Mubarak and Peres regarding an international conference. We would like to know what the prime minister intends to say to Mr Reagan.

[Shamir] What I intend to say I will say, first of all, to U.S. President Mr Reagan. I do not think you expect me to tell you about it now. In general, I will describe to him the situation in Israel as I perceive it. We will probably talk about ways to solve the problems we are facing. These are problems which the United States, as a friend and ally of Israel, must know about and perhaps even help us solve as best as they can.

[Reicher] Let us assume the U.S. President follows the expected scenario and tells you: I have heard the vice prime minister talk about an international conference and I have also heard Mubarak talk about it. So what is your opinion, Mr Shamir, about such an initiative?

[Shamir] I think he will not ask me that question because he knows my position.

[Reicher] Perhaps you should refresh our memory. What is your position on the issue?

[Shamir] I do not think an international conference, as it is being proposed to us, is an efficient means to attain peace or even to bring peace between us and our neighbors closer. Let me reiterate that in our opinion—and as far as I know, this has been the position of the U.S. Administration for several years—the best and most logical way to reach peace is through direct negotiations. Indeed, we are prepared to conduct direct negotiations with all our neighbors, negotiations without preconditions. Our position in these negotiations would follow the lines of the Camp David accords which were agreed to and accepted at one time by Egypt and Israel, with the help and endorsement of the United States.

[Reicher] Assuming that the autonomy mentioned in the Camp David accords—if I am not mistaken, you abstained in the Knesset vote on them—is unacceptable to our interlocutors in the negotiations, what would be your position about the proposal raised by Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert, a member of your party, about implementing autonomy in a unilateral manner?

[Shamir] I have not heard of such a proposal by MK Olmert. He merely had certain musings which could be partly applicable in certain circumstances, according to need. I think that autonomy, that full autonomy during a transition period—which is part of the framework agreement included in the Camp David Accords and is

designed to solve the so-called Palestinian problem; that is, the status and condition of the Arab inhabitants of Eretz Yisra'el and of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in particular—should be agreed upon by Israel and its partners in the negotiations.

[Reicher] These partners include King Husayn, among others. What was his position about the implementation of this autonomy when you met with him?

[Shamir] I did not say I met with him...

[Reicher, interrupting] We have learned as much.

[Shamir] It is a known fact that King Husayn did not take part in the Camp David negotiations. This may be regrettable, but it cannot be changed now. I think bringing King Husayn to the negotiations will be one of the things we will have to deal with and accomplish, perhaps with the help of the U.S. Government, because he must be a part of the negotiations.

[Reicher] Nevertheless, we hear that King Husayn says that he would be glad to come to the negotiations under the umbrella of an international conference. This is also the suggestion of the vice prime minister. What is wrong with that, if only to improve our image which, as you know, is not all that bright these days?

[Shamir] Image is important and it should always be improved, but we cannot forsake Israel's most vital interests in order to improve our image. In my opinion and that of my colleagues, there is no question here of some international umbrella or some ceremony, but rather of Israel's participation in a body or meeting which will have to make decisions and resolutions regarding our future. It is most probable, almost certain, that as far as we are concerned these decisions would be very negative and highly detrimental.

[Reicher] Mr Shim'on Peres was a guest on our program yesterday and he reminded us of some past occurrences. He said that such a conference had taken place in 1973 in Geneva. At that time, as may be recalled, the United States was less sympathetic to us, while the Soviet Union may have been more aggressive toward us. Nevertheless, Mr Peres said, we were not even bruised. What are you afraid of? After all, everybody says that the decisions of the conference will not be forced on us.

[Shamir] The situation was completely different then. Everything that happened in that conference had been predetermined and known in advance and had been organized by Mr Kissinger. This time, it is an entirely different ball game. This is a Soviet proposal, conceived by Brezhnev 12 or 13 years ago. According to this proposal, all the participants in the conference—the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Israel's neighbors, the PLO—would discuss and decide on a solution to the Palestinian problem. Only yesterday, when he raised his proposal aimed at putting an end to the disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, President Mubarak mentioned as one of the conditions our agreement to an international conference which, according to him, should culminate with the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinians. As is known, the right to self-determination is synonymous with a Palestinian state.

[Reicher] Do you have any ideas about Palestinian representation in the autonomy negotiations you talk about? Who would represent the Palestinians?

[Shamir] There are ideas, but....

[Reicher, interrupting] Could we hear about them?

[Shamir] I cannot voice them today. We would have to consult the Americans, first of all, because they would have to help us put these representations together. This is not an easy problem and, of course, we will discuss this matter during my talks in Washington in March.

[Reicher] Staying on the subject of those talks, the U.S. media will probably give you a hard time with the same questions. Except for the autonomy, do you perhaps have any other news? It is being said that you may have sent Cabinet Secretary Dr Elyaqim Rubinstein to say some things there prior to your arrival.

[Shamir] I sent Cabinet Secretary Dr Rubinstein because he was actually invited by the U.S. secretary of state's office to come for talks. He will spend approximately 2 days there and upon his return we will hear some of the U.S. Administration's ideas. The cabinet secretary knows my exact positions and he will also be able to present my ideas to the secretary of state.

[Reicher] There will probably be some embarrassment in your talks. If you are asked: Mr Prime Minister, only 2 days ago the vice prime minister came out in support of Mubarak's initiative, whereas you came out against it. Dr Yosi Beilin came here to speak on Mr Peres' behalf in one direction, whereas Rubinstein spoke in another direction on your behalf. What is happening in your country? What will you answer them?

[Shamir] I presume they will not ask me because we have such close relations with the U.S. Administration that they know exactly what is happening in our country and they need not pose such a question. They are aware of the situation and understand it and, for their part, they will conduct the talks based on their knowledge of the real situation.

[Reicher] Let me put it differently. The media will probably ask you: Mr Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, why do you resort to beatings? In private meetings, somebody may ask you: Why talk about it? You can call the clubs stick candy and still use them to inflict painful beatings. But why do we have to talk about the beatings dealt by our soldiers out loud?

[Shamir] First of all, I hope that when I arrive there, approximately on 15-16 March, the situation will have changed and improved. In addition to that, I will explain that we do not have a policy of beatings, shootings, or deportations. I will say that these are some of the means we use in order to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the IDF soldiers and of the population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I will say that we, along with many others, want to restore peace and normal life.

[Reicher] Why make these statements? Why are we, although occasionally acting wisely, not able to do anything without reporting it?

[Shamir] This is a matter of style. Sometimes, it is precipitated by the need to answer questions. But, in fact, this is our policy. Our policy has a purpose: to restore peace, and return to normal life. We use the means necessitated by the circumstances.

[Reicher] Mr Prime Minister, today you allowed Mr Hanna Sinyurah to leave the country, thus revoking a previous ban. Some say you did that due to pressure from Shultz. Is that really so?

[Shamir] I do not know and I take no heed of pressures. I allowed Hanna Sinyurah to travel at the request of the U.S. authorities.

[Reicher] Mr prime minister, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Beilin Discusses U.S., Egyptian Peace Roles

TA241905 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen in Beilin's office on 24 January—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Beilin] There is no question that this being an election year in both the United States and Israel will impose difficulties on intensive U.S. political activity. Nevertheless, 2 months ago one could truthfully claim that the Middle East neither appeared on the agenda in the United States, nor, perhaps, on the rest of the world's agenda. Nowadays one could safely say that the topic is on the agenda and, furthermore, holds a rather prominent place there. The United States is seriously considering involvement in the area, the objective difficulties notwithstanding.

[Kohen] It is common knowledge that the U.S. Administration turned down the Soviet proposal that an appeal be made to the UN secretary general regarding an international conference. The question is, on what will the U.S. moves in the region be based?

[Beilin] That would be hard to say, because as I said, the United States has not yet made a decision on the matter. A series of proposals for various manifestations of U.S. involvement definitely exists, and we have already witnessed the first expression of this, which was the fact that the Reagan plan was aired again. The U.S. representative who participated in the meeting of the Israeli consul generals in the United States has already raised the possibility that this plan will constitute the renewed option for handling the issue. Another possibility is that a senior U.S. personality will issue a declaration on the Middle East, or perhaps deliver a speech on it, or maybe visit the region. What I am saying is that all the options that were relevant in the past are certainly being examined now, too, although no decision has been made yet.

[Kohen] Does that include a visit by the prime minister as well?

[Beilin] Certainly the visit by the prime minister to the United States is topical, and no doubt it will be preceded by new thinking—just as there is intense activity now, in anticipation of President Mubarak's upcoming visit, regarding intensive activity in the region.

[Kohen] Dr Beilin, did the foreign minister receive clarifications from Egypt on President Mubarak's political initiative?

[Beilin] Regarding some specific political initiatives, not yet. But we certainly did get signals from the Egyptians on interest more intense than ever before in playing a central role in the political process. I believe that in the wake of the Amman summit, when many Arab countries reestablished diplomatic ties with it, Egypt was much encouraged to fulfill its old role in this matter, and we may even live to see this happen soon.

[Kohen] Do you think Egypt might initiate some preparatory meeting, at some level, between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Palestinians?

[Beilin] I would not rule out the possibility. The idea of an international conference certainly still features prominently whenever political moves are discussed. A preparatory meeting under Egyptian sponsorship is definitely a realistic possibility.

[Kohen] Sir, following the report by the assistant secretary general, the Security Council tomorrow will hold a debate on the situation in the territories, which will focus on the Soviet proposal that an international conference be held. What is your attitude toward the report, and how do you react to the Soviet proposal?

[Beilin] Let me differentiate between the report and the Soviet proposal. The report actually says two important things: First, that Israel is committed to handling the situation in the territories and that the responsibility for

this lies with Israel. This is acceptable to us, of course, as this is our position. Second, that the solution to the problem is political, not military, or one imposed by the police. We accept this, too.

Of course, the report itself and the analysis in it of Mr Goulding's tour of the territories is clearly biased in favor of the Palestinian side. In this sense, I believe that the report is far from balanced. Nonetheless, in its general lines, these are the two important points.

As for the Soviet proposal, it is unacceptable. We cannot accept the Soviet suggestion on an international conference because it talks about a conference that we do not want. It talks about a conference that to a large extent would decide for us what will happen in the region. This is an idea that Israel will not be able to accept. Even those of us who are in favor of an international conference, such as myself, will not be able to accept the notion that the conference will serve as a substitute for talks between the parties involved.

Ben-Aharon Derides Soviet, UN Stands on Peace

TA241809 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen in Ben-Aharon's office on 24 January—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kohen] The Security Council is scheduled to debate the report by the assistant UN secretary general tomorrow, and this debate will also focus on the Soviet proposal that Perez de Cuellar convene an international conference. What is your reaction to these two issues?

[Ben-Aharon] The Soviets have jumped on the bandwagon of the UN initiative in the form of the assistant secretary general's visit to our region, which was unnecessary. The prime minister was not happy even with the fact that Mr Goulding was told he could come. There have been so many committees and so many emissaries and missions by the United Nations to this region throughout the years. They have all wished to examine the situation in the territories, and we have always told them that we are responsible for the security of the region and refused to accept them. This time we deviated from our usual practice, which was a mistake, because Goulding submitted a report purporting to be credible—and this is a pity, because nothing positive will come out of the United Nations.

The United Nations is a forum for propaganda; to use a cliche, the Soviet Union jumped on the bandwagon of this initiative to propose again the idea of an international conference. The Soviet Union is not noted for its innovations, and the idea of an international conference was first conceived by the Soviets in 1974. It is a shame that they are wasting time, bothering the United Nations, raising suggestions that foreign ministers meet, and other such ideas. Nothing will come out of this. If there is a true desire for a settlement, it is necessary to talk to those who are supposed to live under that settlement. This involves coexistence between us and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, between us and Jordan, and between us and our other neighbors.

'Amirav Divested of 'Functions'; Leaves Herut

TA262102 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Moshe 'Amirav tore up his Herut membership card and left the Herut Movement after its court decided to divest him of all his representative functions, including his membership in the Central Committee. The court decided not to expel 'Amirav from Herut. [passage omitted]

Nisim Submits $3 Billion Aid Request to U.S.

TA221940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim today handed an Israeli request for $3 billion worth of aid for next year to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. The amount requested is similar to the financial assistance Israel received this year from the U.S. Minister Nisim told Pickering that he hoped Israel's aid request for 1990 would be less.

King Husayn, Delegation Return From Baghdad

JN261906 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation returned to the homeland this evening after a short working visit to Iraq. During the visit the Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Iraqi side led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn held a lengthy meeting to review the Arab situation. They also hailed the uprising of our Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. King Husayn was reassured by his brother President Saddam Husayn about the soundness of the Iraqi front.

His majesty also expressed his pride in and appreciation for Iraq's steadfastness and hailed the brave Iraqi people and Army. They also reviewed the resolutions of the Amman summit as well as the pan-Arab spirit which prevailed at the summit. They discussed the importance of adhering to its resolutions and implications as the best way for joint Arab action to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

The two leaders also reviewed the importance of international efforts to serve our pan-Arab causes as well as His Majesty King Husayn's forthcoming tour of a number of European countries and his scheduled meeting with the EEC foreign ministers. President Saddam Husayn voiced his special appreciation and that of the fraternal Iraqi people for His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan, and the Jordanian people.

Jordanians attending the talks were: Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs; Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, minister of information; and Hilmi al-Lawzi, Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Iraqi attendees were: Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Clarifies PFLP Arrests

JN270931 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] London, 27 Jan (WAKH)—Jordanian Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has denied reports that demonstrations were staged in Jordan and that PFLP members were arrested following these demonstrations.

In a statement published by the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today, the Jordanian minister warned the press and news media against falling into the Zionist trap which seeks to forge facts by fabricating lies.

However, the minister pointed out that 23 PFLP members were arrested about a month ago but not after demonstrations. He added these people are now in precautionary detention.

'Source' Comments on UN Chief's Report

JN261757 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has expressed the hope that the UN secretary general's recommendations will evoke a response from the Security Council and will prompt it to exercise its powers and shoulder its responsibilities. He also hoped urgent and effective efforts will be made to convene an international peace conference to find a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such a settlement would bring about Israeli withdrawal and safeguard the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The official source was replying to a question from the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY about the report submitted by the UN secretary general to the Security Council on the results of the visit of his envoy, Marrack Goulding, to the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Israel. He was also responding to observations and recommendations contained in the report.

'German National' Kidnapped in Beirut

NC271036 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] A new kidnapping has occurred in West Beirut. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that a German national named Rolf Strauss was kidnapped in the Al-Hamra' District near the Amin Center in the Bristol area about an hour ago. According to available details, armed men, some of whom were disguised in Internal Security Forces uniforms, and riding in three cars—a red Renault, a white Mercedes, and a silver Peugeot 505—kidnapped the German citizen. They drove along the Government Palace Road leading to Al-Istiqlal Street in the Zuqaq al-Balat area and then vanished from view.

Holds Lebanese Citizenship

NC271100 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] It has transpired that Rolf Strauss, the person who was kidnapped in the Al-Hamra' area of West Beirut, is a German who had acquired Lebanese citizenship.

FRG Embassy Responds

NC271140 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In a contact with the Voice of Lebanon, the FRG Embassy in Beirut has denied any knowledge about man who has been kidnapped, saying that there are no Germans in West Beirut. It adds that it has not received any information on this matter and that it is awaiting clarification.

The embassy said that it had learned of the kidnapping from a West German news agency citing the Voice of Lebanon radio.

Islamic Group Sees 'No Solution' for Hostages

NC261553 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 26 (AFP)—An Islamic fundamentalist group Tuesday said there had been no progress toward the release of four hostages—three Americans and an Indian—it has been holding for a year.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) warned in a communique to a Western news agency here that "the affair has reached a dead end with no solution in sight."

The statement was accompanied by a color photograph of Alann Steen, a professor at Beirut University College, who was kidnapped in West Beirut last January 24 along with three of his colleagues.

"A year after the arrest of the four spies," the communique said, "things have become complicated by an increase in the number of people arrested in Palestine and the failure to release 400 detainees."

The group on December 18 threatened to harm its hostages if Israeli troops continued to attack and arrest Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories.

It had earlier in the year offered to free the four men in exchange for 400 Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic militants held in Israel.

Mr. Steen in the photograph was clean-shaven but very thin, wearing a white T-shirt and light blue pants.

He is being held with two other Americans, Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill, and Mithileshwar Singh, an Indian holding U.S. residence papers.

IJLP has no known links to another group by the name of Islamic Jihad holding foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Birri Denies Al-Rashidiyah Evacuation Halted

NC261356 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The efforts being made to find a solution to the camps issue continued today. Members of subcommittees have begun a survey of the damage caused to the buildings and other property at the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in preparation for formulating a comprehensive program for their reconstruction. Meanwhile, operations to remove the earthen ramparts and debris from the two camps continued today and traffic to and from the two camps was normal.

With respect to the Al-Rashidiyah camp, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has denied reports that the evacuation of [Amal] posts around the camp has come to a halt. In a statement to AFP, Birri said that efforts are under way to return the situation to normal, adding that the siege of the camps has been lifted. We are currently holding contacts to set up a post for the Internal Security Forces in the camp, he added. Things are proceeding for the better and there are no obstacles, he concluded.

An AFP correspondent has reported that Amal Movement members today evacuated all their positions on the periphery of the Al-Rashidiyah camp, except for a checkpoint at the entrance. He added that for the third consecutive day the camp residents can move into and out of the camp without any problems. He noted that Amal members this morning evacuated their last two posts in the areas of Al-Shawakir and Ra's al-'Ayn along the coastal road leading to the camp. Amal said that it will remove an earthen barricade so that cars can proceed to and from the camp.

Syrians Fire on Amal Members Near Beirut Camp

NC261517 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] According to security reports, Syrian troops opened fire today on Amal personnel who had blocked bulldozers and other machines responsible for removing debris and barricades around the Burj al-Barajinah camp. The reports added that the gunfire was primarily directed at the Hayy al-Akrad area on 'Abd al-Nasir street.

The reports also stated that in the past few hours the Syrian occupation forces arrested five Palestinians near the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

According to the same sources, Amal gunmen raided the houses of some communists around the Shatila camp and arrested a number of individuals.

Amal Roadblocks Threaten Palestinians

NC261617 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports from the south, Amal has set up roadblocks along streets leading to the Al-Rashidiyah camp. Amal members have stopped a number of Palestinians at these roadblocks, threatening them. The Palestinian command in the area has sent out instructions that Palestinians, particularly men, should avoid using those roads.

Palestinians Criticize Al-Rasi's Step on Camps

NC270718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has criticized Interior Minister al-Rasi's decision to revive police posts in Beirut's camps and his request to the Internal Security Forces to institute patrols there. The spokesman maintained that the PLO believes this step to be strange and one that runs counter to Palestinian-Lebanese agreements and charters. He said that the affairs of the camps should be run in coordination with both sides and added that the interior minister's step aims to provoke a new battle after the end of Amal's siege. The spokesman asserted that the PLO welcomes any step by the higher Lebanese authorities that will bolster Lebanese legitimacy and that of its institutions, provided this step is applied to all Lebanese citizens and not just to the Palestinians.

Responding to the Palestinian spokesman, Al-Rasi said that the revival of the posts falls within his jurisdiction alone and that he does not need any other authority in this regard. The interior minister noted that his step has been welcomed by the inhabitants of the camps.

9 February Group Claims 3 Attacks on Syrians

NC261236 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for three operations against the Syrian occupation army in Tripoli in the past 24 hours. In a statement released today, the organization said that its groups had detonated an explosive charge in a joint post manned by Syrian intelligence and the Arab Democratic Party in Jabal Muhsin.

Another group fired a rocket at a Syrian checkpoint in the Al-Baddawi area, injuring a Syrian soldier. Its men also opened machinegun fire at a Syrian checkpoint in Al-Qubbah Square in Tripoli.

'Ill Health' of Al-Huss Cancels Engagements

NC270916 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has canceled his engagements for today because of ill health.

Islamic Resistance Group Ambushed, 3 Killed

NC261129 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] According to security sources, an Islamic resistance group attempted to infiltrate into the security strip last night and was ambushed by an Israeli force in the Al-Jarmaq area. The resistance stated that three of its men were killed and others wounded. [passage omitted]

Southern Villages Shelled, Casualties Noted

NC261246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Kafr Rumman came under shellfire at 0900 today from the positions of the occupation forces in the Jabal Tuhrah and Al-Suwayda' areas. The areas of Al-Nabatiyah and the northern access to the town also came under shellfire, lasting for 30 minutes. Khalil Ayyub was wounded and taken to a Sidon hospital, and several shops were burned as a result of the shelling.

At 2300 yesterday, Jarju' came under shellfire from Sujud hill. Hasan Tawfiq al-Duwayk was killed and his house was totally destroyed.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Militiamen 25-26 Jan

NC261545 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Last night and at dawn today, a member of agent Lahd's militia was killed and five others were wounded in three operations carried out by resistance fighters on the 'Aynata, Lubyah hill, and Marj 'Uyun barracks combat lines. Meanwhile, a 65-year-old Lebanese citizen

was martyred and another wounded when the enemy shelled Jarju', Kafr Rumman, and the outskirts of and the northern access to the town of Al-Nabatiyah.

Further Attacks Reported

NC262043 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] At dawn today, an Islamic resistance group attacked positions held by the occupation forces and agent Lahd's militia on the 'Ali al-Tahir hills, Al-Suwayda' hill, and Al-Jarmaq. A violent clash ensued involving the use of heavy-, medium-, and light-caliber weapons, machineguns, and rockets. The resistance lost three martyrs, Husayn Juni, Husayn Ballut, and Mustafa Kamal, and the enemy sustained a number of deaths and injuries. The exact number of enemy casualties could not be determined because of a security cordon.

Meanwhile, a mine exploded under a vehicle belonging to agent Lahd's militia in the Al-'Ayshiyah area, destroying the vehicle and killing or wounding its occupants.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly Sidon 26 Jan

NC261742 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1736 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted intensive flights at a low altitude over Sidon and the nearby camps this evening. The Israeli sorties drew antiaircraft gunfire.

Israel Hands Over Hasbayya Positions to SLA

NC270650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] According to security sources, the Israeli forces have dismantled their installations and equipment in Hasbayya. The border Voice of the South radio [station established by the Israeli Defense Ministry for the Shi'ite minority] has reported that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has taken over all of the military positions and centers along the Hasbayya front.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Decree Pardons Opposition Members

LD261727 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Decree of the Republic of Afghanistan signed by President Najibullah on the pardon of a number of opposition commanders who were sentenced to death in absentia]

[Text] In continuing the humane measures of the national reconciliation policy; in line with the priceless decisions of the historic Grand Assembly; in accordance with implementing the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and the constitution of national reconciliation; in line with fulfilling this cause, which provides a broad basis for maintaining a peaceful life in this country through talks and dialogue with all opposition armed groups; in order to end war and bloodshed; on the basis of the first speech of the president of Afghanistan at the Grand Assembly; and in accordance with paragraph 8, Article 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, a pardon has been granted to the following people who were sentenced, in absentia, to death on 21 July 1986:

1. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, son of Dost Muhammad, resident of Panjsher;

2. Jalaluddin Haqqani, son of Fateh Muhammad, resident of Urgun;

3. 'Abdul Sabur, son of 'Abdul Shukur, resident of Kapisa;

4. Muhammad Panah, son of Muhammad Amin, resident of Panjsher;

5. Muhammad Esmail, son of Muhammad Aslam, resident of Herat; and

6. Saleh Muhammad, son of 'Abdul Qayum, resident of Qandahar.

This decree is effective from the date of assent.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Wakil, UN's Cordovez Discuss Geneva Talks

LD261721 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Talks and an exchange of views between Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, and His Excellency Diego Cordovez, assistant UN secretary general, on a solution to events in Afghanistan and preparations for the convocation of the next round of Geneva talks were held this morning in the Foreign Ministry headquarters.

According to another report, the assistant UN secretary general left Kabul this afternoon for Islamabad in order to hold talks and consultations with the Pakistani authorities.

At Kabul International Airport, the assistant UN secretary general and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of foreign affairs; the head of the ministry's Protocol Department; and His Excellency (K.K. Benerje), head of the UN development program in Kabul.

Mujahidin State Terms for Talks With Cordovez

BK271356 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 27 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders said Wednesday they would meet United Nations special envoy on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez on condition he accepted the mujahidin as "the main party" in the conflict.

In a joint statement, the leaders of a seven-party rebel alliance based in Peshwar said Mr. Cordovez should state categorically that "no agreement can be reached without mujahidin parties' approval."

They said they would hold talks with the envoy "only if he accepts mujahidin guerrillas as the main party" in the eight-year conflict.

The guerrillas had rejected talks with Mr. Cordovez here last week when he began a shuttle mission between Islamabad and Kabul to bring the two sides closer together ahead of the next round of indirect peace talks in Geneva.

Observers said the rebels' latest statement indicated a mild shift in the mujahidin stance ahead of the talks tentatively set for late February.

Mr. Cordovez returned here Tuesday after three days of talks in Kabul hinting at new difficulties in reaching an agreement on a Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan and a future Afghan government.

He met Pakistani Foreign Office officials Wednesday to brief them on Kabul's response to his first set of discussions here last week, officials said.

The latest rebel statement followed Pakistani President Muhammad Ziaul Haq's remarks published in THE WASHINGTON POST Sunday in which he joined the hardline mujahidin in rejecting any accord with Afghan leader Najibullah.

Mujahidin alliance chief Muhammad Yunis Khalis had last week accused Mr. Cordovez of proposing Soviet terms for settlement. His statement was opposed by two moderate Afghan rebel chiefs, Sayyed Ahmad Gailani and Sebghatullah Mujadeddi.

Statement Issued on Jalalabad Funeral Blasts
LD262046 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Statement issued by security organs on 26 January on the explosions at the funeral of Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan in Jalalabad on 23 January]

[Text] The body of the great Pashtun leader, Fakhr-e Afghan [Pride of Afghanistan] Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, was brought from the opposite side of the border to Jalalabad city in accordance with his own will. The body was escorted by many thousands of Pashtun and Baluchi brethren on 23 January.

During the burial ceremony of this distinguished and militant personality of peace and freedom, the extremist opposition elements trampled on all moral and humane standards, as well as on the sacred religion of Islam. Ignoring Afghan tradition, they brought about a sad and shocking mishap by detonating two explosive devices which were placed in motor vehicles escorting men from the opposite side of the border. This has resulted in the martyrdom of 14 persons and the injuring of tens of others. Among those martyred in this sad mishap are five Afghan subjects and another nine persons are Pashtun brethren from the opposite side of the border.

While over 200,000 persons, including over 70,000 Pashtun and Baluchi brethren from the tribes on the opposite side of the border, and high-ranking foreign guests, were taking part in the burial ceremony of Fakhr-e Afghan Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, the criminal extremists embarked on a most evil terrorist action against our Muslim and freedom-loving people and our Pashtun and Baluchi brethren. They committed an unforgivable crime which was a blatant insult to the Islamic rituals and traditions of Afghans, Baluchis, and Pashtuns.

The results of the investigation by security officials and experts reveals that about 500 kg of explosives were placed in two buses carrying people from Peshawar to Jalalabad city. At least 3 days were required to place these explosives under the seats of the motor vehicles.

The vehicles exploded at the parking place designated for motor vehicles located 1 km from the burial place of the great Pashtun leader Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan. In addition to the loss of life, 11 vehicles were totally destroyed, and 10 other vehicles were seriously damaged.

The wicked extremists do not observe any principles or moral standards. The chieftains of the seven-party alliance of the extremists entrenched in Peshawar said that a cease-fire would be fully observed during the ceremony and that they would prevent any mishaps.

However, due to their bestial nature, their hostility to the people of Afghanistan and the independent tribes, and their subjugated will and reason, in addition to organizing the two explosions, they fired three mortar rounds at the area where a 21-gun salute was being fired as a sign of respect to Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader, which caused the martyrdom of a number of innocent children and injury to a number of Jalalabad citizens.

Moreover, during the same morning, the criminal extremists, in order to disrupt the burial ceremony of Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, the indefatigable fighter for peace and freedom, launched a number of surface-to-surface missiles on Jalalabad city. Fortunately, they did not cause any loss of life or material damage.

This treacherous action by the extremists once again clearly proves that the chieftains are in close liaison with the reactionary Pakistani authorities and international imperialism. They blindly follow their instruction and dictates, even on those days when Afghans, Pashtuns, and Baluchis are mourning the death of a great national figure and a recognized face in the cause of peace in the region.

This bestial act against Afghan and Pashtun national traditions, exposes to all the ugly features of the extremists elements. It could not detract from the glorious burial ceremony of the indefatigable fighter of the path of peace—Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan—whose peaceful thoughts and humane aspirations will remain forever in the hearts of all.

The responsible security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan are seriously investigating and considering the case. In the near future they will inform our compatriots on the results of the investigation.

Security Forces Kill 2 'Extremist Group' Leaders
LD262026 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] An armed group that was involved in terrorism and the looting of public property in Towtamdarreh-ye 'Olya was recently crushed by the vigilant security forces.

The BIA has reported that the vigilant security forces took steps after repeated requests by the people of Towtamdarreh-ye 'Olga and the village's national reconciliation commission. They responded to this group, which wanted to continue its destructive acts by firing at members of the security forces. As a result, the group, including its leader Aqa Sherin, was crushed.

According to another report, two extremist group leaders, Mullah 'Abdul Basir and 'Abdul Salam, were killed recently as a result of the continual clashes and differences among the extremist groups in Parvan Province. The report says that Mullah 'Abdul Basir was killed in heavy fighting which took place in south Salang. The

other extremist group leader, 'Abdul Salam, was killed in Monareh village in Jabal os Saraj district during an argument on the distribution of booty.

Bangladesh

50 Injured in Clashes; Rallies Banned

BK261631 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has banned all rallies and protests. The order was issued within hours of the opposition parties threatening to meet violence with violence following the weekend clash with the police in Chittagong. The order apparently aims at preventing opposition propaganda against the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Any public rally or procession designed to create opinion against the elections will be illegal, it said.

Meanwhile, normal life came to a standstill in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere in the country following a dawn-to-dusk strike called by the opposition alliances in protest against the police firing. Sporadic violence has been reported from several areas in Dhaka. At least 50 people have been injured in clashes between police and demonstrators.

Police Deny Death Toll

BK270203 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] The Chittagong metropolitan police have refuted the contention published in certain newspapers about the incidents in Chittagong on the 24th of this month. The Chittagong metropolitan police said that newspaper reports, particularly on the number of deaths and performance of (?last rites) of the bodies were not based on facts which could create misunderstanding in the minds of the people. An official handout issued in Chittagong last night says the total number of deaths following the incident rose to eight, including the four wounded who expired at the Chittagong medical college hospital on Monday.

1,168 Candidates File for Parliament Elections

BK261558 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Eleven hundred sixty-eight candidates have filed nomination papers for the coming Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] elections. According to Election Commission sources, they filed their nominations for the 300 constituencies till yesterday, the last day for filing nomination papers. Scrutiny was held today. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is Monday, the 1st of next month.

1,123 Nominations Accepted

BK270201 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] BSS, quoting Election Commission source, says in all 1,123 nomination papers have been found valid after scrutiny against 294 seats in the Parliament. Twenty-three others were canceled after scrutiny. Eleven hundred and sixty-eight candidates filed nomination papers for 300 seats to contest Parliament polls. The report further says 22 nomination papers were filed for the remaining 6 seats, but the final scrutiny report is yet to be announced.

India

Pakistani Forces Reportedly Shell Siachen Area

BK270258 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0248 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Pakistani troops indulged in heavy unprovoked artillery shelling on Indian positions in the Siachen glacier on Sunday and Monday. The general officer commanding in chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General B.C. Nanda, told newsmen in Jammu that Indian troops returned the fire. There was no loss on the Indian side. The Pakistani troops had also shelled the Indian positions on the 3,600-meter high glacier on the 10th and 11th of this month without any provocation.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr Jagmohan, presented a check of 5 lakh rupees to Lt Gen B.C. Nanda for the welfare fund of Army men posted at the Siachen glacier.

Accord Implementation Discussed With Sri Lanka

BK261615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] India and Sri Lanka held ministerial-level talks in New Delhi today on various aspects of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The two sides discussed creation of conditions for the return and rehabilitation of refugees and the early holding of provincial council elections. They also exchanged views on the political processes needed to carry forward the agreement. The Indian team was led by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. The two Sri Lankan ministers—Mr Gamini Dissanayake and Mr Lalith Athulathmudali—led their team.

An official spokesman told newsmen that the Sri Lankan proposal for a bilateral treaty was also briefly discussed by the two sides. In the evening, the Sri Lankan ministers met the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, and reviewed the operations of the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka. The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, and the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, assisted Mr Natwar Singh at the talks. The Sri Lankan ministers

were assisted by Mr Menikdiwela, secretary to Mr Jayewardene, and the Sri Lankan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna. The talks are likely to continue in the next few days.

Algerian Foreign Minister Meets With President
LD262055 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, this afternoon met with the Indian president in New Delhi. It should be recalled that Dr Ibrahimi held talks yesterday with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The discussion focused on bilateral cooperation and current international problems. He then had talks with his Indian counterpart.

Burma Seeks To Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation
BK260441 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Burma has expressed keenness to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation with India in diverse fields. The scope for enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries was discussed in New Delhi yesterday when the visiting high-level Burmese delegation called on the finance and commerce minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari. The Burmese delegation is led by the minister of trade, U Khin Maung Gyi.

President Delivers Republic Day Address
BK251645 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Republic Day Address to the Nation by President Ramaswamy Iyer Venkataraman; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Friends, on the eve of the 39th Republic Day [25 January], I extend to all fellow citizens my warmest greetings and good wishes. We recall on this happy occasion that 38 years ago, our country was welded into a sovereign democratic republic assuring our people justice, liberty, equality, and the dignity of the individual. From the snows of Kashmir to the pastures of Kanyakumari, from the sand dunes of Kutch to the lush green forests of Assam, our people rejoiced over the new era that was dawning upon them. The renowned Hindi poet Jayashankar Prasad, whose centenary we are about to celebrate, has captured the spirit of the times in scintillating verse:

From atop the soaring cliffs of

The snowclad Himalayas

Calls the voice of our resplendent Bharat [India]:

O brave and immortal sons of mine

Heed the call of freedom,

Be resolute, take a vow

To march

On that virtuous path that opens before you,

Onwards, ever onward, march.

Our leaders knew that swaraj [independence] was not so much an arrival as the commencement of a new and arduous journey. The real task lay ahead: The task of providing our people a better quality of life. Our leaders were fully conscious that political freedom by itself cannot transform a backward society into a prosperous one. Social and economic reforms, therefore, claimed their highest priority.

Working within the canons of parliamentary democracy and through the mechanism of planned economic development, India has sought to meet its objectives of social justice with the active participation of the people. The progress the country has achieved over the last 4 decades is by no means small. And seen in the context of our steadily increasing population, it is truly commendable.

These 4 decades have seen India achieve self-sufficiency in food and its efficient distribution among our masses. Our farmers have shown an astonishing ability to take to new farm practices with enthusiasm. They have virtually set an example to the rest of India. I take this opportunity to offer my greetings and felicitations to the farmers of India. May they continue to meet with every success.

The industrial sector has also been firmed up and we are now in the frontline of newly independent countries in the production of basic industrial goods. An impressive rate of overall growth has been registered during the present decade. Not only has there been industrial growth in absolute terms, but the industry has shown an ability to diversify and to produce goods of considerable sophistication. We now produce consumer goods that satisfy not only our internal but also sophisticated external markets. I would like to offer my felicitations to Indian entrepreneurs in the public and private sectors, large and small, on their continuing enterprise.

And as one who has had a long and cherished association with labor, I would like to emphasize that in this success story the contribution of the working classes has been considerable. The nation owes a deep debt of gratitude to our labor.

Thanks to all these developments we are now approaching the ideal condition of a self-sufficient nation, described in the Tamil classic Thirukkural as follows:

That is an ideal state which is self-sufficient.

That state is no good state which has plenty

by seeking from others.

It is a matter of no ordinary satisfaction that India has been able to shake off the stagnation of ages and initiate its process of growth without falling into the trapdoor of international debts. All this goes to vindicate the policies and programs set before the nation by Jawaharlal Nehru. We can legitimately feel proud of our accomplishments in all these fields of human activities.

Yet, there is no room for complacency. The growing population calls for a greater momentum of growth in food production and other wage goods. The climbing graphs of production must intertwine with the living and working conditions of our masses. The vast segment of people below the poverty line still need to be helped out. It is these people that Gandhiji [Mahatma Gandhi] had in mind when he spoke of the Daridranarayana [the poor are like God]. It is these people Acharya Vinoba Bhava had in mind when he started his Bhoodan movement. It is the same, lowly and lost whom Mother Teresa serves today from the depths of her being.

Our socioeconomic system must as a whole find ways of reaching our people. I would, in fact, say that our system must begin with these people.

I am confident that we can achieve this. The manner in which we as a nation have coped with one of the worst droughts of recent times demonstrates our ability to do so. A drought like any other adversity always hits the poorest sections hardest. But, thanks to the success of our past policies of agricultural development, the large buffer stock of food grains, and the efficient public distribution system, we have been able to mitigate suffering to a great extent. Our prime minister, Sri Rajiv Gandhi, visited the drought affected areas and acquainted himself with the problems face to face and arranged for timely assistance to state governments.

No polity or economy howsoever well developed can be regarded as successful unless the people have shared goals and objectives towards national issues. There can be no difference among our people on preserving the unity and integrity of the nation and no sacrifice can be too great for maintaining its sovereign independence. Within these parameters our Constitution guarantees the protection of the religious, educational, and cultural freedoms and safeguards the rights of minorities and hill tribes. The secular nature of the nation is fully embedded in a number of articles of the Constitution. It therefore behooves us, the people of India, to dedicate ourselves to the ideal of secularism on this auspicious Republic Day.

Whenever external challenges have threatened us, such as in 1962, 1965, and 1971, Indian unity has blazoned. But we should be able to display the same spirit in our journey towards national development which is no less arduous.

Unfortunately, certain forces seek to impede that progress. Violent groups appealing to narrow loyalties and base passions cause repeated setbacks to our march towards progress.

The spurt in communal riots in various parts of the country have caused considerable distress to the people. While the specific origins can be different in each situation, we are now able to trace certain broad causative patterns. These are, in the main, religious fundamentalism and communalism.

The cult of terrorism continues to vitiate life in certain parts of the country. It indulges in cowardly attack on the poor and the innocent who have nothing to do with the issues. Inevitably, reactions set in and threaten to perpetuate the vicious circle. We must, however, leave no one with the impression that terrorists can deflect our people from their fundamental values, the values of ahimsa and of brotherhood. We must let no one underestimate the basic adherence of our people to the values of tolerance, non-violence, and compassion which have marked Indian civilization for millennia. It is my belief that the pressures and pulls of subnational loyalties will give way to the far greater loyalty of our people to the Indian nation. May I once again quote the Saint Thiruvalluvar, who said:

It has been aptly translated by the revolutionary freedom fighter V.V.S. Iyer as follows:

That is the great nation which is not

Divided into warring sects

Which is free from murderous anarchists

And which has no traitors within its

Bosom to ruin it.

Written 2,000 years ago, the truth shines as an eternal warning to the nation.

No society exists in isolation. India cannot and has not remained unconcerned about developments around it.

The continuing conflict in Sri Lanka led us to offer our good offices to both parties to the dispute in that country. The historic agreement signed between prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene is indeed a peaceful and democratic solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

Unfortunately, a section of the Tamils of northern Sri Lanka has not cooperated in the implementation of the agreement. I do hope that it will soon realise the value of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and help in paving the way for restoration of peace and harmony in the beautiful island. Statesmanship of a very high order, as well as perseverance, will be required to take the agreement to

its desired conclusion and to secure legitimate rights of the Tamils of the Eastern and Northern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The Indian Peacekeeping Force, which has played a commendable role in the very trying circumstances in Sri Lanka, deserves both honor and praise. Waging peace is infinitely more difficult than waging war. But it is also infinitely more rewarding. India's desire to see the end of conflicts goes beyond this part of the world. It is matter of pride for us that our efforts to prevent the arms race, as exemplified in the six nations-five continent initiative for peace and disarmament and in the Delhi Declaration, has led to the building of world opinion in that direction.

The recently concluded agreement between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev on the elimination of land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles has been enthusiastically welcomed by the entire world. It is India's fervent hope that this agreement will be followed by a series of initiatives which will finally usher in an era of disarmament and peace. India will continue to strive for that ideal.

Friends, as we enter the 39th year of our Republic, let us recall to our minds one image above all others: The image of our national flag which was presented to the Constituent Assembly by Jawaharlal Nehru and was adopted by it amidst resounding applause. Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, speaking in the Assembly at the time, said of the colors and design on our flag:

We are putting in the very center the white, the white of the sun's rays. The white means the path of light—the orange, the bhaguwa [saffron] color, represents the spirit of renunciation—all forms of renunciation are to be embodied in Raja Dharma. Philosphers must be kings. Our leaders must be disinterested. They must be dedicated spirits. The green is there, our relation to the soil, our relation to the plant life here, on which all other life depends. We must build our paradise here on this green Earth. This flag tells us be ever alert, be ever on the move, go forward, work for a free, flexible, compassionate, decent, democratic society in which Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists will all find a safe shelter.

Let us all unite under this banner and rededicate ourselves to the ideals which our flag symbolizes.

Jai Hind [Hail India]

'Belt' in Tripura Declared 'Disturbed Area'

BK261602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The government has declared a 15-km belt in Tripura along the Tripura-Chittagong Hill tract as disturbed area with immediate effect. An official announcement in New Delhi said the decision has been taken in view of the growing violent activities of the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists. This would help in checking the routes of the extremists for coming in and going out of Tripura and also facilitate the operation by the security forces.

Sikh 'Terrorists' Kill 2 in Amritsar 26 Jan

BK270744 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by terrorists in different incidents in Amritsar District last night. A farmer was shot dead in village Baat while an ex-serviceman was shot dead in village Sarhallikhurd.

Revised Food-Grain Production Estimates Lower

BK160919 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The food-grain production in the country during the current financial year is estimated to be 144 million tonnes. The revised estimates released by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture show a marked decline from the earlier estimates of about 150 million tonnes of food grains.

Of the total production, rice accounts for 60.4 million tonnes and wheat 45.5 million tonnes. About 1.7 million tonnes of wheat was lost in Punjab due to unseasonal rains. The revised estimates of food-grain production for 1985-86 is 150.44 million tonnes.

Iran

Editorial Examines Questions of Religious Law

'Secondary' Principles Explained

PM261601 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 Jan 88 p 18

[Part one of a three-part editorial by Hojjat ol-Eslam Yahya Soltani: "Solving Problems in the Light of the Absolute Rule by Jurisconsult"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Islamic Republic regime, whose mission was to spread justice in society and to realize Islam and the Koran's programs, was formed at a time when Islamic Iran took over power from a corrupt political, economic, and cultural system. The new regime had to topple and destroy the old ways in order to replace them with Islamic justice. [passage omitted]

This regime, whose political ideals were based on the principles outlined above, of course had to design its economic, judicial, and other organs based on the holy laws of Islam and in accordance with justice. Because

this government had inherited a corrupt judicial, economic, cultural, and social system, it was bound to run into problems that had to be solved in order to swing the regime in favor of the oppressed. It had to establish social justice.

Problems arose because, in defining certain laws in favor of protecting the rights of the oppressed, there were some minor religious principles which, if kept, would prevent the law from being realized and executed. [passage omitted]

By way of example we refer to a number of laws going through the Majlis:

1. The law that gave land to farmers for temporary cultivation. This was farm land taken at the beginning of the revolution from the major landlords, some of whom were corrupt absentees, and given to the farmers by the Reconstruction Crusade or by other organizations. These farmers were thus cultivating the land temporarily. The Majlis, which had to identify the owners of this land, saw it as best for the country that the land stay in the farmers' hands, except in some rare cases. Its price, with the owners' debts deducted, would then be given to the owner. This law did not match the ownership laws of Islam. Forcing a landowner to give up his land, albeit on payment of a fee, did not match primary Islamic principles.

Here the respected Majlis passed the bill using secondary principles, realizing that at such a sensitive time the redistribution of these lands was unavoidable. [passage omitted]

2. The law that prevented the evacuation of centers of learning. According to the law defining the relationship between landlord and tenant, when a lease expires the tenant has to vacate the house, renew the contract, or else get the landlord's permission to continue his stay. In accordance with religious principles he cannot remain in the rented premises after the end of the lease without the landlord's permission. If the tenant refuses to move, the landlord can complain to a court and the court will issue an evacuation order.

Two years ago in September it was discovered that on this basis of the above-mentioned law, many Tehran courts had issued eviction orders for several schools and places of learning. Because of this situation thousands of students were left without schools at the beginning of the academic year.

The Majlis recognized this as a major and perhaps premeditated problem for the government, and it had to find a solution. Though the Majlis went against religious principles to prevent the issue of eviction orders, the situation made it impossible to keep to those principles. [passage omitted]

Here the respected Majlis applied a secondary principle and added a footnote to the bill which said: "In cases whereby a court order for the evacuation of a place of learning causes hardship because of a lack of suitable alternative premises, the court must delay the execution of the verdict for a period of 5 years until the fault and the hardship conditions are removed." [passage omitted]

3. The laws on direct taxes. At the beginning of the second Majlis the government sent the Majlis a bill to impose direct taxes. This law removed tax burdens from the lower classes and placed much of the burden onto the shoulders of those who could afford it. Centers of production, factories, poultry farms, and agricultural centers did not have to pay tax or were accorded major reductions. In any case, the tax law could not have been passed without utilizing special powers, because forcing people to pay tax is against Islamic law unless it is absolutely vital or the person imposing the tax owns the property being taxed. [passage omitted]

'Major Obstacle' Removed

PM261639 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 88 p 18

[Part two of a three-part editorial by Hojjat ol-Eslam Yahya Soltani: "Confronting Opponents"]

[Excerpts] The labor law (relations between supervisor and worker). The labor law was recently submitted to the Majlis by the government. Under this law a factory supervisor or manager would have to pay regular bonuses to the workers in addition to their wages. The workers' rights would be fully observed in every manner, and the law would have prevented managers from oppressing workers.

It was obvious that if the labor law did not employ emergency provisions and did not force factory owners to provide some guarantees, it would violate secondary religious principles. So the first part of the law specifies: "All owners of factories, production centers, industrial units, or agricultural organizations who make any use of government facilities such as currency, power, raw materials, or bank credit must obey this law." [passage omitted]

The law that was passed contained an initial paragraph making it applicable to all actions and projects beginning from that date onward. The government, it was stated, could in the future draw up contracts and, in granting facilities, demand that the labor law be obeyed. Those managers who had already received their facilities from the government and drawn up their government contracts without the labor law being taken into consideration would not be duty-bound by religious principles to obey the law. This religious observation rendered the labor law virtually useless and practically inoperative.

In order to solve this important problem, the esteemed minister of labor wrote a letter to his holiness the imam asking for his guidance. Here are the texts of both the letter and the imam's reply:

Question: Can emergency terms be imposed on units which use government facilities and services such as water, electricity, telephone, fuel, currency, raw materials, ports, roads, jetties, and administrative and banking services, even when that use has been long-standing and continuous?

Answer: The government may use emergency provisions in either case, whether the use is long-standing or recent. (Signed by the imam.)

This reply opened the way for the labor law and removed a major obstacle which many recognized as religious in nature. [passage omitted]

With the explanations presented to the dear readers, it has become clear that all of society's problems can be solved under the umbrella of Islam and the true Shi'ite faith by obeying the religious laws, without any contradiction of any scripture or tradition. It has also become clear that there was a group within the country which, in the name of preserving religious values, created an atmosphere and spread rumors, and thereby prevented many corrective measures. The hands of the government and the Majlis were thus tied in terms of passing many of the necessary laws. This prevented the regime from making progress toward supporting the oppressed in practical terms. [passage omitted]

'Obscure Points' Need Answers

PM261653 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
16 Jan 88 p 18

[Final part of a three-part editorial by Hojjat ol-Eslam Yahya Soltani: "The Need To Confront The Main problem"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] From the beginning of the revolution, when there first occurred talk about an Islamic regime, until now—some 10 years later—our ummah have always heard the imam and other Islamic theologians talk about rule by jurisconsult. Therefore, the main issue is clear. To focus discussions on proving the authority or limitations of the jurisconsult is really not very useful. One must see where the problem lies and how the knot can be unraveled. One must see how these powers can be used to solve society's problems.

Everyone knows that every regime imposes regulations and laws to run a society, and that it appoints certain people to execute these laws. It also sets punishment for those who break these regulations and appoints the judicial power and the courts to punish the wrong-doer. In order to exercise the authority of the jurisconsult, these steps have to be taken. For example, all funds considered public are under the jurisconsult's control, so naturally the power to decide how these funds are to be spent also goes back to rule by jurisconsult. Just as the great imam said in his letter to the president, conscription, sending people to the fronts, stopping hard currency going in and out of the country, matters of taxation and customs duties, the prevention of excessive prices, hoarding, and so forth are among the things under the authority of the regime. Of course, to exercise this authority there has to be law, and there have to be officials to execute that authority and punishment for those who break the law. Since the main issues are the concern of the jurisconsult, all other questions become his affair as well.

If one considers the above examples, then the following question naturally arrises: Under our current regime, which is an Islamic Republic, how are these powers that belong to the absolute and divine jurisconsult executed, and to whom is this power delegated? Does the Majlis have the power to vote on all issues, even those that are under the direct authority of the jurisconsult? Is the judicial authority empowered to mete out punishment, even in cases connected with the title of the jurisconsult—which applies to all cases? Has the executive power handed down authority to the regime of the Islamic Republic? [passage omitted]

These are the issues that have to be discussed and all their uncertainties resolved. I must say clearly that if these obscure points are not clarified, then the problem of exercising the regime's authority will remain. The hands of the lawmakers and judicial and executive officials will be tied whenever it comes time to pass laws that conflict with the primary principles of religion. [passage omitted]

Montazeri Deplores Crimes of 'Zionist' Regime

LD261720 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT
26 Jan 88

[Text] Qom, Central Prov, Jan 26, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said here Monday that account of the Jewish people is separate from that of a handful Zionist terrorists and usurpers.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution made the remarks in a meeting with 1,000 members of the Iranian Jewish society who converged on this holy city, during which a Jewish rabbi deplored crimes of the usurper Zionist regime of Qods against the oppressed Muslims in occupied Palestine.

The ayatollah noted that the Zionist regime was not established on the precepts of Judaism, but that it was founded to serve colonialist objectives of the European countries and the U.S. "The Israeli regime is in fact one of the states of the U.S. slavishly protecting interests of the American Zionists," he stressed.

Ayatollah Montazeri referring to the special attention Islam attaches to the rights of all minorities, said religious minorities have lived in peace and security under the blessed shade of Islam throughout history. "It is the same in the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Jewish society donated 70 million rials (over one million dollars) to the war fronts.

Khamene'i Sees Enemies' Loss of Enthusiasm

LD261824 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Tens of millions of rials in cash as well as dozens of pieces of gold and jewelry were presented to President 'Ali Khamene'i for the war fronts by a group of martyrs' relatives, workers and civil servants in a ceremony here Tuesday.

It was a moving sight to see a 3-year-old orphan of a martyr present his piggy bank to the president at the ceremony. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i also lauded the selfless efforts of a disabled combatant's brother, a student, who sold his bicycle and donated the money for the war fronts.

The president rightly remarked that a nation blessed with such lofty characteristics is certainly victorious. "A country whose people and officials have firm belief in almighty Allah will be successful not only on the military arena but also in all fields," added the president.

Khamene'i adverting to regional reactionary rulers and certain heads of African states who are frightened of the U.S., pitied them. "The reason they fear the U.S. is that fear of Allah has deserted their hearts, making them easy to be cowed down by bullies".

The enemies in the Persian Gulf have lost their enthusiasm and are leaving the region, said the president adding "though they (the enemies) announced they will remain in the Persian Gulf powerfully but we see their warships retreating one by one."

Musavi Asserts Muslims Control Gulf's Future

LD261212 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Bandar-e Konarak, Sistan Baluchestan Prov., Jan.26, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi accompanied by ministers of construction jihad, road and transportation, plan and budget and his deputies arrived here Tuesday for trips to the sites of development projects and a survey of related problems. He was greeted at the airport by provincial officials.

Upon his arrival Premier Musavi said that the southeastern part of Iran is of significant strategic importance.

On the future of the Persian Gulf he also said that the future of the waterway belongs to Islam and it is the regional nations who determine the future.

What is occuring in the Persian Gulf, he noted, is the conflict between the values and anti-values of colonialism which the superpowers intend to impose upon the region.

But, he added, considering the profound trend of nations towards accepting Islamic values and their aspiring for independence, the future of the region will be determined by its Muslim nations.

The prime minister and his entourage inspected Gendarmerie post of Gavater and coastal company of Pasa Bandar and discussed the problems of fishermen and of people of the region with them.

The prime minister left here for Chah Bahar later in the day.

Speaks During Province Tour

LD261755 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Chahbahar, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov. Jan 26, IRNA—The greatest weapon of Iran's Muslim people is their faith in Islam and the holy Koran, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Monday, adding that the Iranian people are exporting this powerful weapon to save the oppressed nations of the world.

Premier Musavi, currently on an inspection tour of this southeastern border province, cited the U.S. military aggression in the Persian Gulf as an example of abortive plots hatched by the superpowers against the Islamic revolution.

"We have shown that Iran's Muslim nation is quite able to stand against all arrogant powers and is keen to fight the world of blasphemy for the sake of Islam," noted Musavi.

The Iranian nation's heroic acts have inspired hope in the oppressed world but on the contrary have spread panic among the suprepowers and this explains why they (superpowers) have instigated hostilities against the Islamic revolution.

At present, stressed Musavi, world people are following the examples set by the Iranian Muslim nation.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds, Government Forces Clash

LD261224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the forces of the Islamic Movement [harkat-e eslami] of Iraqi Kurdistan killed or wounded a number of mercenaries from the Zionist Iraqi regime on the Zara'in-Darbandikhan road in Sulaymaniyah Province during a clash. This report adds that the Peshmerga of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan attacked the encampment of the Dibadeh Battalion on the Sarchang-Imadiyah road in Dohuk Province, killing a number of the forces of Saddam and capturing four others.

Communique on Ship Searches

LD261555 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched several cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 3092nd [as received] Joint Staff Communique said the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman yesterday to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter positions of foreign vessels.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Monday resulting in killing or wounding of several Iraqi troops and destruction of an enemy tank and some vehicles. Parts of enemy fortifications were also set ablaze.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and four enemy bunkers and a munitions dump set ablaze in parts of the southern and western sectors yesterday.

Iranian artillery fire forced a number of Iraqi patrol convoys to flee in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, and checked movement of enemy motorized columns around Chazabeh, Salman township, Panjwin and Qasr-e Shirin Monday.

In Panjwin, Nahr 'Anbar and Yabis, the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants silenced the fire of an Iraqi tank squadron yesterday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Mechanized Column Attacked

LD271020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, a mechanized column carrying personnel of the Iraqi VI Army Corps east of the Tigris has come under the fire of the forces of Islam. More than 20 Saddamist forces were killed during the shelling. The execution of effective and coordinated fire over the fortifications and armored equipment of the aggressive enemy in the southern operational zones destroyed 10 foxholes and slit-trenches and a number of combat vehicles.

Yesterday, the forces of Islam also mounted heavy fire, disrupting the engineering activities of the aggressive enemy and silencing the fire of the artillery units of the Saddamist forces against Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Keeping U.S. Forces in Gulf Merely 'Excuse'

LD261810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the revelation by U.S. officials on the need to reduce the number of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, similar statements have been made and actions taken by other governments who have sent forces to the Persian Gulf. Belgium, the Netherlands, and Britain, for example, are taking steps to implement plans for the formation of a joint force, in addition to reducing the number of their minesweepers.

THE WASHINGTON POST, too, citing official War Department sources, reports that the Governments of Italy, Britain, and France have also reached agreement on the formation of a joint minesweeping force. This report by THE WASHINGTON POST immediately led to hasty and explicit denials on the part of Italian and French officials. The veracity of such denials, however, may be subject to debate and analysis, bearing in mind the inner conflicts in and the current circumstances of the Italian Government. It seems that internal tensions and electoral issues are not without effect in these denials. The Italian Government is currently faced with widespread and severe opposition regarding the continued presence and cost of Italian forces based in the Persian Gulf; confirmation of the report could have strengthened the position of the opposition all the more.

In any case, setting aside the reasons behind such denials, there is much evidence to show that the Reagan administration, as a result of domestic pressure and the approaching election, is seeking to reduce U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf in some way. Therefore, other countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy, too, who entered the region as a result of political pressure from Washington, will, in a framework compatible with the current position of the U.S. War Department, also try to gradually decrease the size of their forces in the Persian Gulf.

What is interesting is that despite the lack of change in the region's conditions and the policies of the Reagan administration, a number of Western papers are trying to present the aims and intentions behind the sending of forces to the Persian Gulf region as strictly confined to

the protection of 11 Kuwaiti ships. By giving this cunning interpretation to the matter, they want to describe the policies of the Reagan administration as positive and successful. When they first adopted and implemented the decision, official U.S. authorities explicitly stated that the intention behind sending forces to the Persian Gulf was to guarantee the free flow of oil from the Gulf region to the West and to defend the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

A study of the development of events and happenings in the Persian Gulf region clearly shows that, first, not only was the freedom of navigation not insured with the entry of the U.S. forces into that sensitive region, but that attacks against merchant ships have risen by 50% over the past year. Second, according to members of the U.S. Congress, before the entry of U.S. forces into the Persian Gulf region the possibility of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz was very small. Therefore, the excuse of continuing to guarantee the free flow of oil from the Persian Gulf as a reason for sending forces to the region was without basis. Even opponents of Reagan and members of the U.S. Congress have made statements concerning the baselessness of this excuse. Third, the meaningful silence of Washington regarding the rocket attack on a Kuwaiti terminal showed in practise that Washington is extremely helpless and weak in supporting its allies and that it is, at the same time, very anxious and terrified at the consequences of becoming engaged in a conflict with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bearing in mind all these aims and the actions of the Reagan administration in regard to its stated intentions, how can it be claimed that the mission of the U.S. forces based in the Persian Gulf has been implemented with success and victory?

IRGC Minister Rafiqdust on Arms Production

LD271029 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Interview with Mohsen Rafiqdust, IRGC minister, by unidentified correspondent within the framework of the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Rafiqdust, would it be possible to inform the listeners of the most recent progress in the program of the Guards Ministry in achieving self-sufficiency in arms production? Would you please tell us the extent of the Guards Ministry's military might and readiness to equip our combatants in future operations?

[Rafiqdust] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We began our efforts to achieve self-sufficiency on the basis of a verse from the Koran. At present, at the beginning of 1988, we are self-sufficient and can meet many of the needs of the fronts. That is to say, whether it is the weapon itself or its ammunition, the mortar or its shell, and the 107-mm Katyusha rockets we are completely self-sufficient and do not have any problems. With regard to the artillery, at present we can produce the most frequently used shells in sufficient numbers. One or two frequently used shells will begin production this year, God willing, and we will be able to produce them in sufficient numbers. Less frequently used shells, which are important and in the past cost a great deal of our foreign exchange, are next in line; we have taken steps to start their production, too. We hope that as we announced before and promised our officials, by the end of the year we will no longer be importing any ammunition for the war.

In other fields, such as communication, moves toward self-sufficiently have also begun. At present we are producing enough radio sets, scramblers, and boosters for our needs. All kinds of other scramblers will be produced in sufficient numbers for our needs this year. We hope that by the end of the year we will become less dependent on imports for our needs in the field of communication. Of course, we will continue our research in that field to enable us to produce things that we are not at present buying from abroad but which we would like to have.

As far as the naval industries are concerned, we began with small craft and we are now building medium-sized vessels. Our plans for next year include the production of everything that our Navy needs, and we do not foresee any domestic problems. We have begun working on assorted missiles. We are already manufacturing some and are producing prototypes of others, some of which are in the research stage. We consider this year as the year when many of these strategic and military items will go into production. God willing, we will announce some of those which will definitely go into production this year.

The next thing I want to mention is the aircraft industries. We are presently building prototypes of two aircraft, one a copy but arrived at from our own design. One prototype has had its test flight, and of the other two [as heard] one will have its test flight in the 10 Days of Dawn and the other in the next 6 months. We have made quite a lot of progress in our aircraft industries. As soon as we started production, we realized that we could build even the best class of planes. Of course, many of these planes are RPV's [remote piloted vehicle] which are being mass produced for use on the fronts.

With regard to the chemical industries, we have worked on a chemical/germ defense system and have reached complete self-sufficiency. Just today, a prototype of a [word indistinct] produced domestically, was brought to me. This is now in production. The rest, ampules, material, equipment both for personal and group use are being domestically produced. Seeing that the world remains silent and leaves Saddam's hands free to do whatever wrong he wishes, we began working on the production of chemical weapons and, with God's blessing, we have been successful. We have announced that

we are capable of responding in kind to chemical attacks. If the world comes to its senses and stops Saddam's madness we will (?destroy) these weapons. But if not, we will certainly retaliate in kind, and the world is aware that our retaliation will, no doubt, be more terrifying than what Iraq has done.

Generally, in reply to your question, I can tell you that our capabilities as far as the war is concerned are increasing every day. Basically, our Armed Forces of today cannot be compared with what they were 3, 4, or 5 years ago, not even with their capabilities during the "Karbala-5" operations.

The commander of the Guards Corps artillery demonstrated a part of the depth of our fire in "Bayt ol-Moqddas-2" and, God willing, this will continue every day.

[Correspondent] If an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic is approved and implemented by the superpowers, would it be possible to overcome its effects and to successfully continue the imposed war, and what has the Guards Corps Ministry done in this connection?

[Rafiqdust] First of all, what does an arms embargo by the superpowers mean? Does the Soviet Union, the United States, or any other country sell us arms? We have always been under an arms embargo. Nevertheless, we have taken precautions for such a day. As I mentioned in my answer to your previous question, we do not rely on foreign sources to continue the war. I even believe that if an arms embargo is enforced it would be a blessing since we will be able to meet the needs of our combatants better and more effectively than before. An arms embargo will not have any effect on us at all.

Warships Sail for Indian Ocean With Students

LD261242 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Two Iranian Navy warships started a 8,000-mile journey in the Indian Ocean Monday with students of the Center for Marine Sciences on board.

During the two-month journey, the students will become acquainted with sailing techniques in international waters and will conduct simultaneous operations with air fleets.

The Navy personnel will also have stopovers in the ports of some friendly countries.

The move under the present conditions proves the power of Iran's Navy which in addition to fulfilling its main responsibility in the Persian Gulf region and Oman Sea is also able to dispatch its fleets to long-distance journeys.

Islamic Ideology Conference To Open 1 Feb

LD261839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Mr Jannati, supervisor of the Islamic Publicity Organization, during an interview on the activities of this organization during the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn, said: To mark the 10 Days of Dawn is not an Islamic and revolutionary duty alone; rather, it is a national duty and a public celebration. After the collapse of 2,500 years of Satanic rule, an Islamic government took over—unprecedented since the early Islamic era. The Islamic achievements, such as the idol-breaking works of His Holiness Ebrahim [the prophet Abraham], should therefore see a revival.

Referring to the Islamic Ideology Conference held in previous years, he said: The Islamic Publicity Organization will this year hold the Sixth Islamic Ideology Conference independently. The conference will begin on the first day of the 10 Days of Dawn [1 February] in Tehran's Laleh Hotel, and will continue for 3 days. Some 100 ulema from various countries, including Pakistan, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Bangladesh, Sudan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Ghana, the Philippines, Mali, Austria, Switzerland, the United States, and Britain have been invited. And 450 members of the ulema, scholars, personalities of the liberating movements of the world, and our country's official will attend this conference. [passage omitted]

Iraqi 'Bribe' Blocks Investigation of Bombing

NC261914 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The ruling Ba'thist regime in Iraqi has paid a bribe of approximately 25 million Lebanese pounds to stop the investigation of an explosion in a chemical materials warehouse in the Furn al-Shubbak district of East Beirut, which occurred nearly 1 year ago. The explosion killed a large number of people. The Ba'thist regime paid this bribe in an attempt to cover up its scandal.

The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, which published the report, added that the chemical weapons in question are being given to the Iraqi regime for use against Iran. This follows an agreement signed in Baghdad by someone in Saddam's administration and Dany Sham'un, leader of the Christian Lebanese National Liberal Party.

The paper recalled that an explosion also had occurred in a factory in the Egyptian city of Alexandria which previously produced chemical weapons for the Iraqi regime.

Media Coverage of Velayati's Visit to Poland

For reportage on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Poland, see the Polish section of the January 26 Eastern European DAILY REPORT.

Turkish Envoy Gives Ozal Message to Mo'ayeri

NC270856 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mo'ayeri received the Turkish ambassador in Tehran on Tuesday morning. The ambassador conveyed a verbal message to Mo'ayeri from Prime Minister Ozal on the latest developments in the region. he also denied reports that U.S. military units have been sent to Turkey in preparation for an intervention in the Gulf. On relations between the two countries, the ambassador said: Certain circles are trying to strain relations between Turkey and Iran.

For his part, Mo'ayeri accused the Iraqi regime of being solely responsible for the tension in the Gulf, adding that the latest UN Security Council resolution on the Iran-Iraq war was drawn up in accordance with a U.S. offensive in the Persian Gulf. Mo'ayeri noted that this damaged the UN Security Council's credibility.

Asserting that the United States and its allies should refrain from initiatives, which will only worsen the situation in the Gulf, Mo'ayeri said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to emerge victorious from the war.

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives Hungary's Horn

LD261757 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gyula Horn conferred with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam here today on the imposed war, the Persian Gulf developments and the two countries' stances in international affairs.

Sheykh ol-Eslam pointing that [as received] the Iraqi Ba'thist regime invaded Iran at a time when the newborn Islamic Republic had embarked on a re-constructing, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its sacred defence until its legitimate rights are achieved and a just peace realized.

He regretted that the aggression on the Islamic Republic was not properly discussed by international bodies, adding that the more just stands they adopt towards the war the more effective role they can hope to play in putting an end to the war.

In response Horn stressed on Tehran-Budapest friendly ties and said that Hungary disapproves the U.S. pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Petroleum Products Distribution Discussed

LD262141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] According to a news report, the managing director of the National Company for the Distribution of Petroleum Products has commented in an interview about the methods of the production and sale of kerosene, diesel oil, and engine oil throughout the country. He also spoke about the implementation of the project of setting up small petroleum products distribution centers in various parts of the country. He commented on the implementation of the government's corporal punishment law regarding distribution.

He said: It was previously announced that during the current year [ending 20 March 1988] we will have a 30-40% increase in the distribution of kerosene. In practice, during the first 10 months of the year 1366 [1987-88], there was an increase of about 24.1% in the distribution of kerosene. During this same period, there was an increase of 2.6% in the distribution of gasoline. Regarding diesel oil, there was an increase of 6.4% in distribution. He added that in the month of Bahman [21 Jan-18 Feb] this year, about 34 million liters of kerosene will be distributed. In general, from the standpoint of gasoline and kerosene, for the rest of the winter season we will definitely have no difficulties this year. But with diesel oil we may come across a little difficulty.

On the method of distributing petroleum products, he said: Taking note of the enforcement of the law allowing corporal punishment, 120-130 million liters of petroleum products per day are being distributed among the people. But in order to improve product distribution, there is a need for a strong backup; in this regard, with the help gained by the corporal punishment laws and the cooperation and collaboration of people, we are in a position to succeed in implementing the law. He encouraged people to call the telephone number 673001/3—Distribution Inspectorate—to report any cases of abuse.

On the plan for setting up small distribution centers, the managing director said: In order to expand distribution sources and supply channels for petroleum products and to make it possible for more people to set up distribution centers with little investment—emphasizing that the centers should be owner administered—the National Company for the Distribution of Petroleum Products has embarked on a project for setting up small centers. On that basis, distribution centers measuring 152 meters by 132 meters by 52 meters will be set up in various parts of the country, and conditions and means for their transfer to the private sector will soon be announced.

Tremor Shakes Ilam City, Suburbs 26 Jan

LD261350 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 26, IRNA—A tremor measuring five degrees on the Richter scale shook Ilam city and its nearby suburbs in western Iran at 13:06 hours local time (09:36 GMT) Tuesday. There is yet no reports on casualties or damage.

The geophysics center of Tehran University registered the epicenter of the tremor at 500 kms southwest of Tehran near Eslamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran Province.

Pakistan

UN Envoy Briefs Officials on Talks in Kabul

BK270243 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, held talks with senior officials from the Foreign Office in Islamabad yesterday and apprised them of the details of his discussions in Kabul. Diego Cordovez also met with the ambassadors of the United States and the Soviet Union.

According to reports, talks are being held between the Soviet Union and the United States with regard to declaring Afghanistan a nonaligned country following the withdrawal of foreign forces. This nonalignment is based upon the precedence whereby Austria declared its nonaligned status in 1956, thus paving the way for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from there.

Commenting on these reports, Soviet and U.S. officials have said that their talks were at an initial stage. However, these discussions are passing through a delicate phase. THE WASHINGTON POST reports that at these talks on nonalignment, the topic of Afghanistan not participating in military operations with any other country is also included.

Ziaul Haq, Junejo Congratulate Indian Leaders

BK260245 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have congratulated President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion on India's Republic Day today.

In his message, the president expressed confidence that good-neighborly and cooperative relations will be established between the two countries with the help of the sincere efforts by their leaders and the best wishes of their people.

In his message, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's determination to establish bilateral and good-neighborly relations through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. He said that during his recent meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Kathmandu, they had agreed to quickly normalize bilateral relations. He asserted that we can realize the common objective of establishing harmony and cordial relations between Pakistan and India with goodwill and determination.

The president and the prime minister have also sent congratulatory messages to Australian Governor General Sir Ninian Stephen and Prime Minister Robert Hawke on Australia's National Day today.

Ziaul Haq Attends Reception

BK261540 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq attended a reception in Islamabad this morning which was hosted by India's Ambassador, S.K. Singh, on the occasion of his country's Republic Day. During his meeting with the Indian envoy, the president conveyed best regards on behalf of the Pakistani people and on his own behalf and expressed good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the government and people of India.

He asked the envoy to convey greetings on his behalf to the Indian president and prime minister.

Paper Condemns India's Nuclear Submarine Lease

BK261507 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Rent-a-Nuclear Submarine"]

[Text] After India's "peaceful" nuclear explosion of 1974 comes another nuclear first from the same quarter: a nuclear submarine on lease from the Soviet Union, with two more to follow. This is no joke, however. Beyond strengthening the Indian Navy it upsets the rules of the naval game in the Indian Ocean. A fundamentally new factor has been injected into the region as the Indian Navy, never very small, sees its war-making potential enhanced by this latest acquisition. As such, it is bound to add to the fears and suspicions of India's neighbours who have never found it easy to reconcile New Delhi's peaceful professions with its rather more belligerent deeds. As the Foreign Office has pointed out rightly, this move is inconsistent with the aim of denuclearising the Indian Ocean and is all the more disquieting in that the nuclear propulsion system installed in these submarines would not be subjected to any safeguards. By introducing in effect a new weapons system in South Asia, the Soviet Union is contributing to the intensification of the arms race in this region. As India goes about arming itself in this fashion, its neighbours would inevitably be under pressure to take countervailing steps. This scarcely augurs well for peace in the region. Nor does it quite square with the global efforts currently underway to curb the menace of nuclear arms.

At any rate, it is for India to take note of the double standards it brings to bear upon the question of an arms race in South Asia. Any effort by Pakistan to meet its legitimate defence needs draws the most shrill protests from it. But India itself has never felt under any restriction to get what it wants for what is now the third largest military force in the world. It would have been something had this arms drive been propelled by ordinary

defence requirements. But in India's case the ambition to be a regional power dominates its defence thinking and induces an insatiable appetite for expensive and sophisticated weaponry. The leasing of three nuclear submarines from the Soviet Union is part of the same pattern. All the same, it is an unwise and a dangerous move which is sure to accentuate regional fears and intensify the search to balance the weight of India's military acquisitions. It is a fit subject to be unequivocally condemned by all states interested in the development of peaceful relations in South Asia.

Sri Lanka

2 Indian Soldiers Killed in LTTE Attacks

BK261554 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Two [Indian] peacekeeping force personnel were killed in separate incidents of firing by the LTTE in Batticaloa today. The situation is now under control but tense.

In the Jaffna Peninsula, the bundh [strike] call given by the LTTE evoked mixed response. While life was unaffected in several areas, including Kankesanthurai and Kilinochchi and Point Pedro, the attendance in schools and offices was thin and public transport did not ply. The bundh was partial in other places, including Jaffna town. Banks and government offices were open in the Eastern Province, but shops remained closed.

48 Hour Curfew in Batticaloa

BK270324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a 48-hour curfew was declared yesterday morning in Batticaloa following clashes between the peacekeeping force [PKF] and LTTE. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the peacekeeping force patrol was ambushed when it was going to Batticaloa railway station. Two PKF personnel were killed in the ambush. Later, an operation was started against LTTE in the area in which at least eight LTTE men were killed. Reports say that 10 civilians were also injured in the cross firing. Shops and houses near the market were also damaged in the firing.

Fighting Reported in North, East

BK270624 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 27 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 27 (AFP)—At least 35 people, including 14 Indian soldiers, have been killed in two days of clashes involving Tamil guerrillas in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, officials and residents said Wednesday.

Two Indian soldiers and eight fighters of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed in a gunbattle in the eastern town of Batticaloa Tuesday as the rebels protested India's Republic Day, residents said.

They said five civilians, including a woman and a child, died when they were caught in the five-hour shootout. At least 15 other people were hospitalized with gunshot wounds, doctors in Batticaloa said.

In a simultaneous attack, the LTTE fired mortars and small arms at the Batticaloa police station, but were repulsed, a police spokesman said.

Batticaloa Chief Inspector Gamini Seneviratne said it was not known if the LTTE suffered any losses when police and Indian troops inside fired back.

He said a 24-hour curfew imposed in Batticaloa Tuesday after the incident has been extended until Thursday morning to prevent further violence.

"We see a lot of Indians patrolling the streets. The situation is very tense," a Batticaloa resident said Wednesday.

He said the Indians had shelled LTTE targets in the town and damaged several houses, but officials here said they could not immediately confirm the report.

In another incident, at neighbouring Valachchenai town, LTTE guerrillas attacked an Indian patrol with grenades and small arms, killing one soldier and wounding another. "Indians retaliated and the bodies of five LTTE rebels were found at the scene," an official in Colombo said.

Residents in northeastern Mullaitivu District said the LTTE announced there that they had killed eight Indian soldiers Tuesday in an attack on a patrol.

Officials here said they were aware of the LTTE claim, but had no immediate confirmation.

An Indian soldier and an LTTE gunman were killed overnight Tuesday at Navatkuli in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, officials said.

They said that two Indians and two LTTE fighters were killed in a landmine ambush by the rebels in northern Kilinochchi District Monday.

The clashes came as Indian and Sri Lankan troops were on maximum alert amid reports that Tamil separatists and Sinhalese extremists were planning violence to protest India's Republic Day.

The LTTE launched a civil disobedience campaign January 18 demanding the withdrawal of more than 37,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka under a new Delhi-backed peace plan aimed at ending nearly five years of Tamil separatist violence.

District secretariats in the Northern and Eastern Provinces remained closed for the ninth day Wednesday following LTTE threats to civil servants not to attend work, officials said.

India launched an offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE after it rejected the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord and refused to surrender arms. More than 350 Indian troops and over 1,200 rebels have been killed in the fighting.

LANKA PUWATH Carries 'Terrorism Roundup'

BK271015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0945 GMT 27 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item: "Terrorism Roundup"]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 27 (LANKA PUWATH)—The secretary of the traders association in Mannar, northwest Sri Lanka, S.K. Panchalingam, was taken from his home and shot dead by terrorists last Monday night (January 25), official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said Panchalingam was viewing television at his home the previous evening when two armed terrorists suspected to be members of the TELO gang of terrorists came into his house and demanded Rs 25,000.

The terrorists had told Panchalingam that they would call over the next evening to collect the money at 1900 hours (local time).

The terrorists had arrived about 1930 hours, taken him out of the house and shot him dead at a nearby cross-roads.

Official sources said that in the Trincomalee District, Indian troops thwarted a terrorist's attempt to blast a bridge on the Kiniya-Thampalagamam Road yesterday.

The bridge was slightly damaged but the road is passable.

In the early hours of yesterday, one Indian soldier was killed and another wounded when LTTE terrorists fired at a joint police-IPKF [Indian peacekeeping force] patrol at Mamangam in Batticaloa.

On Monday, at 2000 hours (local time), LTTE terrorists attacked an IPKF patrol at Pullipamgavel, Eravur.

One Indian soldier was killed while terrorists casualties are not yet known.

At Weli-Oya, northeast of Trincomalee, terrorists fired at a IPKF detachment with small arms and 60-mm mortars.

Indian troops did not return fire fearing civilian casualties.

A report from Kalmunai states K.K. Sirisena of Tangalle had complained at 2230 hours (local time) on Monday that four armed terrorists robbed his lorry and abducted his brother-in-law and driver.

Police later recovered the lorry but the two abducted men were reported missing.

Yesterday, LTTE terrorists attacked the Batticaloa police station.

The attack was effectively repulsed by the police and Indian troops.

There were no casualties among the police and Indian troops. Terrorist casualties are not known.

Also at Kilinochchi yesterday, LTTE terrorists attacked an IPKF patrol.

In the exchange of fire one LTTE terrorist was killed.

One IPKF soldier was killed while another was wounded.

IPKF reinforcements which were called in ran into a landmine and one Indian soldier was killed.

Near the Akkaraipattu roundabout yesterday, an unidentified man threw a hand grenade.

Two civilians sustained injuries.

SUN Editorial Derides IPKF Performance

BK241510 Colombo SUN in English 13 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Indian Presence"]

[Text] In the less than six months since they arrived on Sri Lankan soil under a peace accord, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) has increased in number fifteen-fold.

Not a month passes without New Delhi making an announcement of additional troop deployment in Sri Lanka from their Southern Command at Bangalore. No mention is made, however, of the exact numbers arriving and there are no 'by your pleases', either.

Despite all these additional reinforcements, any prudent person would ask India why her army with nearly 50,000 troops in Sri Lanka, having a ratio of over 20:1 viz-a-viz LTTE cadres; almost 5 per cent of her entire million-strong bayonet-strength cannot deliver the peace.

Is it that they are incompetent, or is it that they have no intentions of finishing the job?

What is still worse is that the IPKF stands indicted before the bar of public opinion in this country of spectator-watching as hundreds of innocent civilians have been butchered in the Eastern Province and thousands of others rendered homeless.

We know that the Indian Army has a dismal record in the Punjab, in Gujarat and in Darjeelwng in quelling civil unrest. We know that their strength is in numbers and play tremendously on psy-war with their numbers.

But what appears to be causing public uneasiness in this island-nation is the almost orchestrated record across the Palk Straits which demand that India, having suffered heavy casualties in its protracted battle against the LTTE, should now get something in return from Sri Lanka before the job is complete.

Influential newspapers and vociferous legislators complain that Colombo has out-foxed New Delhi, and that India should not fulfill her pledge to end the armed separatist cry in north and east Sri Lanka, unless and until the Provincial Councils are established.

What they fail to ask themselves nevertheless is how any government can hold Provincial Council elections particularly in the north and east when a good proportion of the voting strength is huddled in refugee camps throughout the length and breadth of the island. And most of them fled their homes only after the IPKF made their presence felt in the area.

The very presence of Indian troops on Sri Lankan soil is causing tremendous concern among the ordinary Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims in the country. That is a natural resentment a people would have.

The Indians feel that Sri Lankans should be grateful for their presence, but it is not so, because the majority is convinced here that it was India that fed, cared for, and armed the LTTE when they were mere cubs of yesteryear.

During the past few weeks, the IPKF has hardly de-escalated LTTE massacres of Sinhala and Muslim civilians, nor disarmed the LTTE. The fact that they have yet to arrest any of the LTTE hierarchy is a standing joke for the fourth biggest army in the world.

Why is it then that the IPKF wants more and more troops. Surely Sri Lanka is not a holiday-station. The Indian High Commission which abruptly called off its briefings has a duty, as a practising democracy, to tell the world why these troops are being deployed when no corresponding results can be seen.

Otherwise, suspicion will grow further and further. It will give more strength to the extremists who violently opposed the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord. The accord will have more and more detractors.

Bandaranaike on Election, Ties With India

BK221611 Colombo WEEKEND in English 10 Jan 88 p 5

[By J.T. de Silva]

[Text] The government should hold general elections in other parts of the country without awaiting the return of the north and the east to normalcy SLFP leader, Ms. Sirimavo Bandaranaike told 'WEEKEND'.

In a wide-ranging interview she held forth her views on the present situation in the country. She also called on the government to send back the Indian troops in the country.

Q: Will not the general election outside Northern and Eastern Provinces amount to semblance of a division of the country?

A: An example is Rajiv Gandhi holding elections in other states leaving aside Punjab, Assam, etc. Why is our government unable to follow suit? Even at present, the government is carrying on without 16 MPs from Northern and Eastern Provinces. Therefore a general election outside those provinces cannot amount to a division of the country.

Q: Will not terrorism in the south worsen when such elections are held?

A: If you mean the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Perameena], I have read in a newspaper that they are prepared to contest in a general election. My own information confirms it. Their participation in the election cannot make things worse.

I appealed to President J.R. Jayewardene to lift the ban on the JVP when I met him at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Central Hall], a month back but he told me that police had advised him to ban the party.

Q: Is the remedy for youth unrest the general election?

A: Yes. When I told, a few years back, that youth unrest could be pacified through a general election, many MPs and ministers denied the youth unrest and said I was greedy for power. But government-men themselves

admit it openly. I am happy to note this development at least belatedly. Rights of the entire population cannot be deprived because of the Northern and Eastern Province dispute.

Q: Do you believe that LTTE will lay down arms and take part in an all-island general election?

A: Before that, IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] should be sent back. LTTE's intentions about a general election could be ascertained afterwards. If their response is good, LTTE should be asked to contest.

Q: If your party is returned to power, what steps will you take to achieve peace?

A: Our solution will depend on Indian Government's support, of which I have always been confident, and our party's attitude to the problem. We are confident of peace, if the presidential election is advanced.

Q: If the government appoints an interim committee of administration including all recognised parties, will you participate in it?

A: That will not serve the purpose because our views are divergent. While some like the peace accord and the presence of Indian troops we are opposed to them. A committee with such contrasting views will achieve little.

Q: Do you intend to unite with all anti-UNP forces to confront the UNP at the next general election?

A: I am not opposed to such unity but the PR [Proportional Representation] system of elections does not leave room for it. Presence of Indian troops and the peace accord will be the main issues on which our views and those of other groups are vastly different. We are already preparing for the next general election at electorate-level.